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Arab-Israeli Talks

Omani Minister Meets With Israel's Beilin

JN0711150294 Muscat Radio Oman Network in Arabic 1300 GMT 7 Nov 94

[FBIS Translated Text] His Excellency Yusuf Bin-'Alawi Bin-'Abdallah, minister of state for foreign affairs, received His Excellency Dr. Yosi Beilin, Israel's deputy foreign minister, at his office at the Foreign Ministry today.

The meeting came within the framework of the multilateral talks of the Middle East peace process, especially in light of the sultanate's contributions to the meetings of the water resources working group. This working group's latest meeting was hosted by the Sultanate of Oman in April. During that meeting, it was decided to establish a center for research on desalination in the Middle East based in Muscat.

The two sides discussed the peace talks on all tracks and the results of the Middle East and North Africa Economic Cooperation Conference held in Casablanca.

Beilin Leaves Muscat

JN0811071494 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0630 GMT 8 Nov 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Muscat, 8 Nov (WAKH)—Israeli Deputy Foreign Minister Yosi Beilin left Muscat this morning following a one-day visit to the Sultanate of Oman during which he met with Yusuf Bin-'Alawi Bin-'Abdallah, Omani minister of state for foreign affairs.

Beilin's talks in Muscat dealt with the Middle East peace process on all tracks and the results of the economic summit conference held in Casablanca.

League Said Interested in Joining Multilaterals

TA0811095594 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 8 Nov 94 p A3

[Report by political correspondent Aluf Ben]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] The Arab League is interested in joining the peace process and playing an active role in it, most notably on the multilateral track. This announcement was made by Sa'id Kamal, Arab League deputy secretary general, in a meeting with Deputy Foreign Minister Yosi Beilin in Cairo two days ago. Kamal is a former PLO ambassador to Egypt, and the meeting with Beilin was initiated by him.

Political sources in Jerusalem said the Arab League's desire to join the peace process with Israel is highly significant.

Yesterday Beilin visited Oman, where he held two lengthy meetings with Omani Foreign Minister Yusuf Bin-'Alawi. Beilin brought along a draft agreement on the establishment of low-level relations, and the two men agreed at the meeting that Israel and Oman will soon establish formal relations and open official representations in both countries. [passage omitted]

Multilateral Armament, Security Talks Open

JN0811065894 Amman Radio Jordan in English 0530 GMT 8 Nov 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Meetings of the multilateral committee on security and armament open at the Dead Sea Hotel in Jordan today to study establishing a regional center to prevent conflict in the Middle East. Political and military experts from 20 countries, including Israel and Arab states, will discuss efforts to curb arms proliferation in the Middle East.

The three-day conference would produce recommendations to be presented to a larger parley scheduled to convene in Tunisia next month.

Arms control is one of several multilateral workshops launched as part of the Middle East peace process three years ago. Topics to be discussed in today's sessions will include establishing a military and security communication network to link the region's countries.

Islamic Affairs

Al-Azhar Shaykh's Tract on Extremism, Violence

NC0111145894 Cairo AL-WAFD in Arabic 28 Oct 94 p 9

[Report by Hasan 'Azzam]

[FBIS Translated Text] Shaykh Jad-al-Haq 'Ali Jad-al-Haq, the Grand imam of al-Azhar, has recently been following up all issues of concern to the Egyptian people and has been issuing detailed studies on them. During the International Conference on Population and Development, we published his valuable thesis on abortion. When the controversy over female circumcision heightened, we published his study on this subject two weeks ago.

Because the overwhelming topic these days is about extremism and violence, especially following the attack on writer Najib Mahfuz, we publish a summary of a valuable study which has not been published extensively on religious extremism and its security, political, and social dimensions. His eminence puts forward proposals to contain and eliminate extremism and violence.

The al-Azhar shaykh begins his study with a summary of the emergence of the phenomenon of violence and the attempt to impose views by force. He reviews developments and events in the West since the beginning of the 20th century and their impact on the Orient.

His eminence says: Changes began taking place in Egypt in cultural, religious, and social dimensions. The Arab-Islamic cultural character and educational system declined. Westerners had the upper hand in planning and organizing affairs until ties with the past were severed or almost severed. The year 1952 marked the beginning of a deeper change in Egypt's social life. The industrial society grow stronger and expanded in Egypt. This society had its own characteristics that distinguished it from an agricultural society and created new social problems. Extensive changes then occurred in the spheres of family life, education, culture, arts, information, education, the judiciary, codification of laws, and public property, and then in the field of religious education. Political and economic turbulence then occurred, causing a general crisis that could not be ignored. These factors interacted and commingled, causing discontent among large sections of the populace. This in turn produced a feeling of indifference, as well as other social repercussions. Matters got worse when the populace did not have the opportunity to express their views on the contradictions they perceived and the reforms required, because everything dictated that orders should be obeyed at all cost.

Meanwhile, other groups took control of the media and the arts and began to work to change social thinking and the Egyptian and Islamic traditions in a way which was sometimes inconsistent with the creed of this society. This created a dilemma for citizens between their own beliefs and other, imposed doctrines. These groups tried to change Islamic doctrines, giving themselves the authority to interpret them according to their whims and to ignorantly speak on religious matters. Further events occurred which enabled these groups to tighten their control and seize more opportunities to destroy the social structure, level haphazard accusations at the Muslims, and undermine the status of scholars.

Various media have continued to pursue this course. This has ignited the youth and the people in general with religious feeling and a zeal for Islam, which Egypt has embraced and nurtured since it joined God's religion. In the past 20 years, the phenomenon of moral dissolution among youth has appeared. The authorities concerned have not paid attention to this phenomenon and have done nothing to combat it. This has given rise to extremism. However, every nation's hopes are pinned on its youth, who must be prepared physically to shoulder responsibility. Good intentions alone are not capable of making nations. Moreover, an intuitive conviction that is not translated into a working program is not worth its salt.

We must then pause and ponder so as to understand in particular the state of our youth, ascertain the causes that have led to this moral, religious, social, and economic decline, and identify what we ought to do to put things right, without turning a blind eye to the development of social, economic, and political life in our country and the whole world.

If one looks closely at our country's condition today he will find conflicting trends sweeping our society, trends that at the same time attract the youth in order to influence them and make them lose their self-control. There is a trend of immoderation in religion and a rigidity in understanding its rules. And yet another trend has disengaged itself from religion and moral values. These two phenomena or trends have to be confronted together by exposing the extent of the danger they pose to religion itself and the harm they do to the entire nation as a result of their mistaken interpretation of religion or their disregard of its correct and tolerant tenets. The correct interpretation of religiousness should also be pointed out so that the purity and clarity of true religiousness and its source will attract both trends and serve to rectify the course of their lives.

His eminence the shaykh of al-Azhar then concludes his study by saying:

As protection against all this, we should ponder and remember the following:

1. Rewriting the general education curricula—benefiting in this from the country's past experiences—and giving more attention to the Arabic language and Islamic religion curricula so that they can provide proper education for children and youths through all stages of education, including university, while taking care to provide adequate instruction in the Holy Koran.

2. Preparing students in all the al-Azhar institutions by making them memorize the Holy Koran in full while continuing to review the curricula to ensure that they are appropriate; and strengthening all these institutions to enable them to perform their mission.

3. Tackling the economic problems and the resultant crises that shatter the youths' hopes, such as the housing and employment crises.

4. Tackling the administrative imbalance in some of the state's organs, which is impeding them in providing services to those seeking them.

5. The political parties must play their role and the various media organs must initiate a dialogue on extremism, its dimensions, and various causes; explain all the political, social, economic, and religious issues; and warn of the real dangers represented by extremism, violence, and terrorism regardless of whether it is local or foreign. The media organs have to stop spreading divisions, name calling, and hatreds because the youth have soft hearts and are easily influenced by the accusations that they read and hear. Cultural organs have to face up to their own shortcomings, which falls short of what society expects of them.

6. Purging society of those who have made vice and sin their profession and who spread corruption; propagating virtues, sponsoring public morals, and eschewing emotional and divisive issues. This can be done by allocating a daily space in the newspapers for tackling issues raised by deviant behavior and poor morals, in view of the scarcity of specialized newspapers and magazines.

7. Confronting the foreign groups that spread violence and create trouble, by exposing their sources and objectives.

8. Halting the tendency to blame and ridicule devout people for mistakes, incidents, and catastrophes; reassuring those involved in propagation; repealing the laws that restrict speeches in mosques; and enabling religious societies to perform and coordinate their activities of propagation in harmony and without any conflicts.

9. Reviewing the laws that now represent social injustice, such as the law on the relationship between landlord and tenant in the housing and agricultural sectors, and also the restrictions in the agricultural, trade, and industrial fields.

10. Accepting the nation's desire for legislation emanating from Islamic shari'ah ,in which it believes, for there is sufficiency and immunity in this shari'ah, and taking measures to pass the legislation already pending.

11. Providing care for the family.

12. Urging the people to depend on qualified scholars in fatwa [religious edict] cases, stopping those who challenge the fatwa out of ignorance while not daring to espouse any other branch of learning for fear of the punishment meted out by the law, and honoring those working in the Islamic and social fields.

13. We must analyze the causes of extremism, regardless of its type, phenomena, and channels. It dons cloaks and each case has its own cloak. Once again, we should not attribute it to religion and thus make the people hate religion, nor try divert them from extemism by opposing religiousness, for religion itself is a shield from sin, and teaches obedience to God and compliance with His orders. We must confront intellectual extremism with original thinking and the constructive dialogue that aims to clarify and explain. Let us stand firmly against those spreading sedition and let us be sure of the news and reports before making accusations.

This is what God Almighty says in the al-Hujurat Sura: "O ye who believe! If a wicked person comes to you with any news, ascertain the truth, lest ye harm people unwittingly, and afterwards become full of repentance for what ye have done."

Palestinian Affairs

'Arafat Addresses Gaza Demonstration on Unity

JN0411165894 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1515 GMT 4 Nov 94

[Report by 'Adil al-Za'nun from Gaza]

[FBIS Translated Text] His Excellency President Yasir 'Arafat, chairman of the PLO and Palestinian National Authority, performed Friday prayers today at al-'Abbas Mosque in Hayy al-Rimal in Gaza. The mosque preacher welcomed President 'Arafat and called on the Palestinian people to adhere to their principles and to demonstrate more unity and national coherence in confronting any plot. The preacher touched on the assassination of journalist Hani 'Abid and strongly condemned the incident. The mosque preacher held Israel responsible for the incident.

His Excellency President Yasir 'Arafat affirmed that the most important issue in these delicate and difficult moments is our national unity. This came in his address to the support march that was organized by the Fatah Movement this afternoon, in which hundreds took part and headed for his headquarters in Gaza. Addressing the sons of the Fatah Movement and the Palestinian people, he said: Be patient and God will grant you patience. Be patient out of concern for our national unity.

President 'Arafat added: The most important thing is not to make anything encroach on our national unity. The participants in the march shouted the following slogans: With our souls and blood we redeem Palestine; with our souls and blood we redeem Abu-'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat].

'Arafat Says Promises 'Have Not Been Kept'

LD0411213394 Paris TF-1 Television Network in French 1900 GMT 4 Nov 94

['Arafat remarks in English with superimposed French translation]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] The number of demonstrations is increasing in Gaza after the assassination of an Islamist leader. Six thousand people demonstrated this afternoon following an appeal by the Hamas fundamentalist movement. The PLO leader Yasir 'Arafat did not hide his worry. Four months after his return, he is the only Palestinian who can save the peace process—that is what he said to our envoys Catherine Jentile and Thierry Froissart in an exclusive interview:

[Begin recording] ['Arafat] Some have received the price of peace but we are the only ones to pay this price. The promises made to us have not been kept. We have many problems here, especially since the Israelis have closed the border with Gaza and the West Bank.

[Jentile] Do you still trust the Israelis in the peace process?

['Arafat] It is not a matter of trust. Take the example of the elections. They are doing everything to postpone them, they make more obstacles. I appeal to the international community, it has to know what is going on here.

[Jentile] What is your relationship with the Palestinian Islamic groups?

['Arafat] Normal. [end recording] [passage omitted]

'Arafat Confers With Former French Defense Minister

JN0511081594 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 0600 GMT 5 Nov 94

[FBIS Translated Text] His Excellency President Yasir 'Arafat, head of the Palestinian National Authority, conferred with former French Defense Minister Jean-Pierre Chevenement in Gaza city yesterday. Talks during the meeting dealt with the hardships facing the National Authority, legislative elections, and the redeployment of Israeli occupation troops.

At the end of his meeting with President 'Arafat, Chevenement called for extending aid to the authority. In this respect, he criticized the sluggishness of the donor nations in extending financial aid, and thus making the situation more difficult.

Chevenement said only 10 percent of the international aid that was promised last October was actually paid.

It is worth mentioning that Chevenement had resigned his post in the French Government to protest France's participation in the Gulf war.

'Urayqat Previews 'Arafat-Rabin Meeting

NC0811083094 Cairo Voice of the Arabs in Arabic 0610 GMT 8 Nov 94

[Interview with Dr. Sa'ib 'Urayqat, member of the Palestinian Authority, in Jericho, by Fawzi al-Jundi, in Cairo; date not given; from the "Dialogue From Afar" program—recorded]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Al-Jundi] Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat and Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin will meet at 1430 today at the Erez crossing point, which separates Gaza and Israel. What issues will the Palestinian side raise during the meeting? Dr. Sa'ib 'Urayqat, Palestinian National Authority member and delegate to this summit, is with us now on the line from Jericho. We welcome him to Voice of the Arabs.

['Urayqat] Good morning.

[Al-Jundi] In light of this short introduction, what does the Palestinian side seek from this summit with Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin?

['Urayqat] Today's summit will focus on four major points. The first concerns the need to directly proceed to a discussion of the details of the final form of the interim agreement. What we mean by the interim agreement, as stipulated under the Declaration of Principles signed in Washington in September 1993, is the need to proceed along parallel lines to reach an agreement on elections, redeployment of the Israeli troops beyond the densely populated areas in the West Bank, deployment of the Palestinian troops in these areas, revision of the military laws and orders in force, transfer of the remaining powers, the election of a Palestinian council, the liquidation of the Israeli civilian administration, and the withdrawal of the military government. This is the basis. It should have taken place in 13 July, but it didn't. Now we must work earnestly and in concert to achieve this before the end of the year.

[Al-Jundi] It is clear that the Palestinian-Israeli talks on the Palestinian elections are still stumbling, while events are taking place that affect the continuation of the talks. Could a specific mechanism be adopted to guarantee that violence in the occupied territories will not affect negotiations between the two sides?

['Urayqat] As I said earlier, there are four points on which today's summit will focus. I mentioned the first. The second concerns negotiations for the elections, which are being held in Cairo with the knowledge of brothers in the Egyptian Foreign Ministry, the U.S., Russian, and EU parties. During the negotiations, the Palestinian side submitted a comprehensive paper outlining its understanding of the council to be elected, its makeup, and nature. In four weeks of talks, we managed to focus all the discussion on this paper. We asked the Israeli side to return with the authorization to sign an agreement on this understanding; namely, to hold elections under which the head of the authority will be directly elected by the people and the members will be elected in a separate ballot. We hope that an agreement will be reached today between President 'Arafat and Israeli Prime Minister Rabin on the understanding we submitted and negotiated in Cairo. The third aspect of today's meeting concerns the increasing violence. In October alone, 12 Palestinians were martyred and dozens wounded by the Israeli occupation troops and settlers in the West Bank. This Israeli cycle of violence naturally leads to Palestinian violence. The cycle of violence and counterviolence can be curbed only be speeding up the peace process and the gradual termination of the occupation.

[Al-Jundi] And holding elections.

['Urayqat] Naturally this, too, is part of speeding up process we talked about. Look at what the Israeli authorities are doing to partition the al-Ibrahimi Mosque. It is not sensible for such a holy site for Muslims to be shared, partitioned, and torn up this way as if the Palestinians and Muslims are being punished for what criminal Goldstein did at the al-Ibrahimi Mosque massacre in February.

[Al-Jundi] What about the fourth aspect?

['Urayqat] It concerns Israel's commitment not to take measures such as the closure of Gaza and the West Bank. Such measures not only do not conform to the agreement but also violate the simplest foundations of the peace process. Today's meeting must come up with a statement that explicitly stipulates that the Israeli Government will abstain from taking such measures in the future. It is senseless to place one million people in Gaza and more in the West Bank under an economic, political, military, and security siege and tell the Palestinians that there is peace or attempts to plant the seeds of future peace between the two peoples.

[Al-Jundi] Dr. 'Urayqat, the Israeli partial closure of the Gaza Strip and West Bank raises the issue of Palestinian control of the crossings leading to the Palestinian self-rule areas. You previously concluded an agreement with the Israeli side on this. Is this agreement enough, or are there attempts to promote the agreement on the issue of crossings with the Israeli side?

['Urayqat] There are two issues. The first pertains to the international crossings. As you said, an agreement had been reached on this issue. According to the agreement, the Palestinian side is in charge of the Palestinian crossing leading to Egypt and Jordan. But the issue of cargoes and trucks is still pending. However, the other, important point is the secure crossings between the West Bank and Gaza Strip. The agreement clearly stipulates that they represent one geographical unit. Israel is entitled at any time to prevent the traffic movement to and from Gaza and from Gaza to the West Bank. What is happening now is that the Israelis are imposing this military cordon and preventing trucks, goods, and passengers. This should be halted because the agreement stipulates that both are one geographical unit. The agreement further stipulates the presence of secure crossings between the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

[Al-Jundi] It is obvious that the 'Arafat-Rabin summit today will deal with the Palestinian concerns and the obstacles being placed before the Palestinian Authority's actions. When, in your opinion, can we say that this summit will be devoted to working out radical solutions to the pending problems between the Palestinian and Israeli sides?

['Urayqat] Today's issue will not be one of presenting grievances. There is an agreement signed between the Israeli Government and the PLO. Every day, Rabin says he is committed to this agreement. But, in practice, Rabin's actions run counter to the spirit of this agreement. The closure, for example, contradicts the agreement's provisions. Rabin's statements that Jerusalem is Israel's eternal capital contradict his statements that Jerusalem will be a subject of negotiations in less than two years and that no side is entitled to take unilateral measures in order to present a fait accompli. There is also another important point, namely the killing of the sons of our people in the West Bank's villages and camps.

Therefore, this is not an issue of grievances; it is rather the basic issue and the core of the peace process. If Israel continues to pursue such practices, the decisionmaking circles in Tel Aviv must understand that this would bring about the collapse of the entire agreement. It is inadmissible for Israel to act however it wishes unilaterally—to negotiate, not to negotiate, to close down, to open. These Israeli practices and political actions are endangering the agreement. The summit will be extremely important if it dots the "i's" and crosses the "t's."

[Al-Jundi] Thank you, Dr. Sa'ib 'Urayqat.

['Urayqat] You are welcome.

Hamas Official Rejects Rabin Conditions for Dialogue

MM0711162494 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 7 Nov 94 p 1

[Report by 'Ali Nun: "Hamas Rejects Rabin's Conditions for Dialogue"]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] London—Ibrahim Ghawshah, official spokesman for the Islamic Resistance Movement "Hamas," rejected yesterday the conditions set by Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin for dialogue with it, most importantly "to halt terrorism, to recognize the State of Israel, and to stop killing the Jews merely because they are Jews."

Ghawshah told AL-HAYAH over the telephone that "Rabin is setting conditions which he imagines that Hamas might comply with, like the PLO, which has made itself a pliable tool in the hands of the occupation. Hamas is a Palestinian Islamic movement, in the sense that it is committed to the principles of Islam and the interests of the Palestinian cause and the Palestinian homeland. It cannot recognize the Zionist entity or halt jihad operations. It is legitimate resistance sanctioned by all religious and civil principles."

As for the talk of killing Jews, he added, "the reply to it is that the Arabs and Muslims too are being killed by the Israeli Army, settlers, and those posing as Arabs (the Israeli president supervised a full course for them a few days ago, and their task is to kill the Palestinian people in cold blood.) The claim that we are killing Jews merely because they are Jews is untrue. Because the mujahidin are fighting the occupation because it is an occupation, regardless of its being Jewish or not. Proof of this is that the Palestinian people fought the British mandate, and Martyr 'Izz-al-Din al-Qassam fell in that fighting."

Ghawshah stressed that "dialogue with the Zionist entity is rejected by Hamas. We tried some time ago to present some initiatives through other parties. But the racist Talmud mentality rejected them. What happened in the case of the soldier Nashon Wachsman's abduction is another proof. Our condition was the release of Shaykh Ahmad Yasin and Palestinian women, and we extended the ultimatum by 24 hours. We made this offer through the Red Cross, Deputy Talab al-Sani', and the mayor of Umm el Fahm. But Rabin ignored all that, and what happened, happened." Ghawshah believes that this incident "proves that what is proposed by Rabin—and (Deputy Defense Minister) Mordekhay Gur (deputy defense minister), and Deputy Foreign Minister Yosi Beilin before him—is merely tactical. It is designed to create contradictions inside Hamas—which is impossible." [passage omitted]

Hamas Threatens 'Harsh and Painful' Attacks

TA0811124594 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1200 GMT 8 Nov 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] has again threatened to carry out harsh and painful attacks against Israelis, this time, in reaction to the new arrangements at the Cave of the Patriarchs. Our correspondent Dani Zaqen reports that a leaflet disseminated to news agency reporters in Gaza says that Israel seeks to change the Muslim nature of the cave, which has belonged to the Arabs for the past 1,300 years.

Thousands of Hamas Criticize 'Arafat in Protest

NC0411224094 Paris AFP in English 1720 GMT 4 Nov 94

[Report by Sakher Abu Eloun]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Gaza City, Gaza Strip, Nov 4 (AFP)—Some 6,000 Hamas supporters denounced PLO chairman Yasir 'Arafat for making peace with Israel and challenged him to capture the killers of a fundamentalist leader in an angry march through Gaza City on Friday [4 November].

All Palestinian factions, including 'Arafat's Fatah, have blamed Israel for the murder of Islamic Jihad's Hani 'Abid, whose car was blown up on Wednesday.

But 'Arafat has faced the wrath of Moslem militants, and Friday's protest followed his flight the previous day under a torrent of abuse from crowds at 'Abid's funeral, although he later received an apology from Islamic Jihad.

Police escorted the marchers who carried black flags and banners through teeming Gaza City chanting Islamic slogans and attacking 'Arafat's autonomy deal with Israel.

"Oh 'Arafat, this is your peace, nothing but jail and detentions," they raged.

Another banner read: "We tell those who flexed their muscle to search for the Israeli soldier to do the same and find Hani 'Abid's killer."

It was a reference to a Palestinian police crackdown on Hamas ordered by 'Arafat after the movement kidnapped a soldier on October 9.

But there was support for 'Arafat from about 700 Fatah members who rallied in front of his Gaza headquarters.

He came out to greet them as they chanted "with our blood and soul we will defend you 'Arafat" and he was hoisted shoulder-high.

"The most important thing in these difficult moments is our national unity, nothing must harm that," 'Arafat said."I tell my brothers in Fatah to be patient," he said, quoting from the Koran, Islam's holy book.

Islamic Jihad and Hamas (the Islamic Resistance Movement) issued statements condemning Israeli attempts to start a "civil war" among Palestinians and urged unity.

"Our people will stand united with all its forces, including the Palestinian authority, in the face of these plots," said a cleric, reading a statement at a mosque from where the demonstrators walked to 'Abid's house.

The Jihad, which has claimed responsibility for a series of attacks on Israelis in recent years, pledged to "make the Zionist entity pay for this new crime".

Israeli officials refused to comment on 'Abid's death, but a newspaper reported that he was the Jihad's top military chief in Gaza, had been on a wanted list, and was preparing a car-bombing in Israel.

The Jewish state also suspected 'Abid when the Jihad killed two soldiers in June and Palestinian police held him for 17 days before he was freed for lack of evidence.

Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin vowed a merciless war on Islamic extremists after a suicide bomber killed 22 people aboard a Tel Aviv bus on October 19.

Abed also edited a magazine and some fundamentalists said his role in the Jihad was political, but other Palestinians said he was a prominent military chief.

Paris Magazine on Hamas Training, Fund-Raising

JN0611194894

[FBIS Editorial Report] Paris AL-WATAN AL-'ARABI in Arabic on 4 November carries on pages 28-30 a 3,500 word report by Mufid 'Abd-al-Rahim from Washington on the activities of members of the Islamic Resistance Movement, Hamas, in the United States. The report is published under the banner headlines: "Mosad Investigating the activity of the Islamic Resistance Movement;" "Washington: Hamas Training Camps in America."

The report argues that, at an Israeli request after the recent bus bombing in Tel Aviv, U.S. security authorities began extensive investigations into "suspected networks for supporting and financing Hamas" in the United States acting under the guise of charity organizations.

According to "a private U.S. investigator" who spoke to the magazine "on condition of anonymity" this campaign aims at "destroying or crippling those networks." According to the investigator, 40 percent of Hamas' financing comes from the United States and Britain, while the balance comes from Middle Eastern individuals and governments, especially Iran. According to the same investigator, "Western intelligence sources" put Hamas' annual budget at $30-$50 million.

The investigator adds that Israeli Mosad agents recently arrived in the United States to help the Federal Bureau for Investigation in the search for the "Hamas supporting networks" in the United States. According to the investigator, the Israeli agents brought lists of specific persons living in the United States whom Israeli authorities suspect of having relations with Hamas and its financing networks. The investigator says that according to information gathered by U.S. security authorities so far, Hamas has approximately 20,000 supporters in the

United States, mainly Palestinians. The investigator adds that among those, "500 can be counted on by Hamas to carry out various combat missions in Israel and, if need be, in the United States."

"Although U.S. investigations have so far not revealed training camps for Hamas in the literal sense of the word in U.S. territory," the report continues, "U.S. security circles say that the Hamas supporters are setting up makeshift training camps in Chicago, where there is a large Arab and particularly Palestinian community." The magazine cites the U.S. security sources as saying that Hamas supporters rent farms or woods in the Chicago area, usually in the summer. They claim that the purpose is to set up camps for educating Muslim youngsters. However, according to the investigator, the Hamas supporters take advantage of the easy access to firearms in the United States to purchase weapons and be trained on their use in remote areas, where they are also trained on making explosives. The investigator adds that the first of such camps was discovered accidentally by a hunter when he heard fire shots in a nearby ranch, where he saw a group of "bearded veiled persons."

The investigator adds that U.S. security authorities have information about "widespread, developed" networks of mosques, religious centers, and some groceries owned by Americans of Arab origin. They collect funds, clothes, and foodstuffs and send them to Hamas members in the occupied territories.

Hamas Rejects Israeli Decision on Tomb of Patriarchs

NC0711123494 Paris AFP in English 1146 GMT 7 Nov 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Amman, Nov 7 (AFP)—The Islamic Resistance Movement (Hamas) called Monday [7 November] for Moslems to fight against an Israeli decision to split Hebron's Tomb of the Patriarchs into a mosque and a synagogue.

Hamas spokesman Ibrahim Gawshah told AFP: "We reject and vehemently denounce this measure and we call on all Arabs and Moslems for swift action against it."

Israel on Monday reopened the complex, holy to both Jews and Moslems, eight months after the massacre there of 29 Moslems by Israeli settler Barukh Goldstein. New security measures keep the two faiths apart at the West Bank site.

Moslems have been allotted two halls for prayer, while Jews, who can no longer carry weapons into the complex, will use three smaller halls and a covered courtyard. A metal partition divides the communities.

Gawshah described the split as a "dangerous precedent." He added that "Moslems must not give up the Hebron mosque...since this would serve as a prelude toward similar moves on al-Aqsa."

Al-Aqsa mosque in Jerusalem is the third holiest site in Islam after Mecca and Medina in Saudi Arabia.

The Hamas official said it was the duty of the Palestinian self-rule authority to reverse the Israeli measure. "We call on the authority's leader (Yasir) 'Arafat to scrap his scheduled meeting Tuesday with (Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq) Rabin, in a sign of protest."

Islamic Jihad, Hamas Leaders 'in a Panic'

TA0411135594 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 4 Nov 94 p 4

[Report by David Regev]

[FBIS Translated Text] Prominent members of Islamic Jihad and Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] have been in a panic since the slaying of Hani al-'Abid.

Most of the two organizations' leaders and wanted men spent the night after the assassination outside their homes, some of them sleeping in their cars and others in hideaways.

Palestinian sources said that some Islamic Jihad members put their cars up for sale yesterday for fear that the Israeli security forces might have their numbers, which could help to track them down and kill them.

The Palestinian police erected numerous roadblocks and checked cars and the identification papers of passengers. The population was called upon to be alert and to check their vehicles. Many people accused collaborators in the Gaza Strip of helping the Israeli hit men get the information, plant the bomb, and escape.

The Palestinian security services initiated heavy surveillance on senior Islamic Jihad and Hamas members in the Gaza Strip. Palestinian sources said that plainclothes security personnel were seen in the last 24 hours near the homes of Hamas leader Dr. Mahmud al-Zahhar and Islamic Jihad leader Shaykh 'Abdallah al-Shami.

PA: Hamas, Islamic Jihad Trained in Bomb Detection

TA0611115594 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 6 Nov 94 p 1

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] and Islamic Jihad leaders in Gaza received training over the weekend from Palestinian Authority [PA] security experts on how to detect bombs which may be placed in their cars or homes, according to Palestinian sources in Gaza.

Palestinian Police denied the report, saying the policemen were at their homes to investigate the death of Islamic Jihad leader Hani al-'Abid.

Dressed in civilian clothes, the PA experts arrived at the homes of senior Islamic Jihad and Hamas leaders and explained how to take precautions when entering their cars and homes, the sources said.

The sources said yesterday the experts who examined the bomb which was placed in al-'Abid's car said it was the type which could be quickly and easily installed. The experts demonstrated to the leaders how to detect a car which has been tampered with and avoid entering it, the sources said.

They also said members of the Palestinian Police's elite force were guarding the homes of Hamas and Islamic Jihad members to prevent long-range assassination attempts.

Meanwhile, Hamas and Islamic Jihad leaders in Gaza reacted angrily to reports in Israel that they had obtained different cars as a precaution against assassination attempts. Dr. Mahmud al-Zahhar, a senior Hamas official in Gaza, told reporters, "We are taking precautions but we are not afraid of death whose time and reason is determined by Allah.

"I have not changed cars and I am at my home."

Sha'th Feels 'Desperate,' Says Process Not Working

TA0811112594 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT (24 SHA'OT supplement) in Hebrew 8 Nov 94 p 9

[Interview with Dr. Nabil Sha'th, "minister of planning and international cooperation" in the Palestinian Authority, by Smadar Peri on 7 November; place not given]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Peri] What happened, Dr. Sha'th? Are you suddenly feeling desperate?

[Sha'th] I will try to describe the situation in Gaza as we see it:

—Six thousand political detainees are being held in prison, and Israel refuses to release them, despite the agreement.

—Gaza is under an economic and military closure. The closure is a cruel, collective punishment, resulting from a foolish decision made by I don't know whom.

—Despite this situation, Israel expects us to wage a civil war.

[Peri] The closure on Gaza was imposed for a reason. Israel imposed the closure to guarantee its own safety.

[Sha'th] After the unfortunate incident with the soldier (Nahshon) Wachsman, Israel imposed a closure on Gaza and, in addition, closed off the international border. Even the Gaza fishermen can no longer make a living from sea fishing.

I will cite another example: There are 200 sewing workshops in Gaza, and they all sell jeans to Israeli stores and factories. Ever since the closure, they have been prohibited from receiving cloth from Israel and transporting their finished products to Israel.

I ask you: What kind of security risk do jeans pose? Why are these people forbidden to trade? Have any of these tailors ever posed a security risk? What can I tell them? I have no answer for them, and neither can I take care of their financial woes.

How can I promise that their lives will improve, that they will be able to put food on their tables? How can I guarantee that in their despair, the Gazans will not join our opponents?

[Peri] The donor countries have pledged aid.

[Sha'th] I have no complaints against the donors, but there is a pressing problem which I must solve: how to pay salaries. The donations are earmarked for factories, for economic projects. As long as Gaza is under closure, none of that can come about. Who would want to build factories in a besieged city?

And I will tell you something else: With the help of my connections, I have been able to persuade Palestinian businessmen to launch projects that will create jobs for Gaza residents. Now they call me and complain: Why should we build hotels, restaurants, or factories in Gaza? Who will come here? No tourists will come to a city under closure, and the factories will be unable to export their products.

I am telling you that Israel has managed to scare off all our investors. I have been following everything you are planning to do with the Jordanians, and I am about to explode with anger and despair.

[Peri] Why?

[Sha'th] I am not critical of your peace agreement with Jordan, but I certainly have things to say about the speed with which Prime Minister Rabin acts whenever he so wishes. Rabin is deliberately slow with us and very quick with the Jordanians.

The slow pace at which Rabin has been implementing the agreement with the Palestinians is a deliberate policy. Its consequences for us are very grave.

[Peri] Last weekend we heard Israelis say that Rabin should act to strengthen 'Arafat. This seems to be the reason for their meeting at the Erez checkpoint.

[Sha'th] I am famous for my boundless optimism, and so far I have tried to cling to the positive signs in order to convince myself and others that the agreement stands a chance. The results and Rabin's policy toward us, however, speak for themselves. Rabin makes no effort to hide his aversion to the Palestinian issue. In this situation, there is no hope for the peace process. It is not working, and I feel truly desperate.

[Peri] Israelis see Gaza as a nest of terror, as a place from which they would like to part. If they cannot do so in friendship, they will do it through closure.

[Sha'th] We cannot help Israel with its security problems in the current situation. We can only help you if we attain equal status. You cannot push 'Arafat into a corner and make demands of him at the same time.

Furthermore, I do not understand your conduct at last week's Casablanca conference. Your government announced there that it is interested in integration in the Arab world and in separation from the Palestinians. What kind of statement is that? How can you open your borders to the Arab world on one hand and close them to the Palestinians, who live among you, on the other? I do not understand this proposal, and it will not work.

[Peri] Let us try to be practical. What are you going to propose at the Rabin-'Arafat meeting today?

[Sha'th] The truth is that I am no longer optimistic, and I have no great expectations from the meeting. Only Rabin can pull off a miracle, if he comes to 'Arafat and says: Just as we reached the Gaza and Jericho agreements, let us advance with goodwill toward the implementation of an interim arrangement in the West Bank.

Rabin can propose to expedite the work of the joint committees, to solve the problems together. All the critical problems of today—and I mean critical—can be resolved if Rabin cooperates with us.

In addition, Rabin must decide to put an end to this policy of meting out collective punishments to innocent people here. Is it not true that Palestinians holding Israeli work permits have never been involved in terrorist attacks? Using Israel's security as a pretext to close the Gazans off does not make sense. If Rabin is interested, the security problems can also be solved together.

[Peri] And if Rabin comes to listen to 'Arafat and offers no solutions?

[Sha'th] Rabin may have plenty of time, but for us, time is running out. Unless Rabin takes the initiative and shows responsiveness—and I am not threatening, merely describing the situation—we will regress to a cold peace, to instability. All the nice talk about the Middle East market will not be worth a hoot. You cannot be half pregnant. In our case, we either give birth to a more or less healthy baby or the whole thing will end in an abortion that will be painful for everyone involved.

Sha'th on Ibrahimi Mosque Division

JN0711131394 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Arabic 1055 GMT 7 Nov 94

[Telephone interview with Dr. Nabil Sha'th, "minister of planning and international cooperation" in the Palestinian Authority, by Sa'id Mu'addi; place and date not given; from the "With the Midday Events" program—recorded]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Mu'addi] Dr. Nabil Sha'th, the Ibrahimi mosque was reopened today after an approximately nine month closure. What do you have to say on this occasion?

[Sha'th] On this occasion, I cannot but recall with deep pain this terrible massacre and remember with humility the martyrs who fell in the Ibrahimi mosque. Six [as heard] months after the massacre, I would like to say here that our Palestinian people in Hebron have suffered the results of the massacre and have paid the price. After a long absence, the Ibrahimi Mosque has now reopened, but it is divided. This is something we completely reject.

[Mu'addi] Yes. Will this issue be raised during the Rabin-'Arafat meeting?

[Sha'th] I think so. We believe that what the UN Security Council had agreed and the presence of the international forces actually did not fulfill the objective they set out to achieve. After Israel asked the international soldiers to leave, the agreement on the Palestinian police forces in Hebron should have been implemented to protect this mosque and the sons of Hebron.

[Mu'addi] Dr. Nabil, last night you held talks with Police Minister Moshe Shahal. We learned that the discussion dealt with the Rabin-'Arafat meeting?

[Sha'th] Yes. I explained to Mr. Shahal the problems we face from the closure, the delay in spreading peace in the West Bank, the continued imprisonment of Palestinian detainees, and that all this obstructs the peace process. I hope that Mr. Shahal—I believe he understands these problems—will contribute to render tomorrow's meeting a success.

[Mu'addi] What about the topics listed on the agenda?

[Sha'th] At the top of these issues is the continuation of the peace process in the West Bank, that is the immediate initiation of measures to negotiate the transition agreement, the redeployment of the Israeli forces in the West Bank, and elections, as well as the closure issue. We want a warm, true peace, not a cold, faltering peace.

[Mu'addi] The status of Orient House has once again been raised. What comments do you have on this?

[Sha'th] I am surprised at this clamor the Israeli rightwing fabricates in the Knesset on this issue. What has happened? Scores of foreign prime ministers and foreign ministers have visited Orient House. This took place when the Likud was in power. Why this attack on the issue of the Turkish prime minister's visit to Orient House? In my opinion, the only reason for this is for election purposes.

[Mu'addi] The [Israeli] prime minister will raise the issue of terrorism at tomorrow's meeting?

[Sha'th] Our stand is clear on this. He will raise the question of terrorism while we recall the Hebron massacre, the biggest terrorist massacre. Terrorism, that is the unjustifiable killing of civilians, is something which we denounce, irrespective of the party which carries it out.

[Mu'addi] One last question. What about statements by some Israeli officials on the possibility of holding a dialogue with Hamas, [Islamic Resistance Movement]?

[Sha'th] Here also, I can neither understand the reasons for this attack that was launched against Hamas as a political movement nor the talk about dialogue with the Hamas Movement. I cannot understand the reasons for these two issues with the existence of a Palestinian government through which the PA [Palestinian Authority] holds a dialogue with the Israeli government. The Israeli government should hold a dialogue with the Palestinian government, the PA, and the latter will arrange its domestic affairs in the manner that national considerations dictate on it.

[Mu'addi] Dr. Nabil, thank you very much.

PA Officials Boycott Jerusalem Business Conference

TA0711170094 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 1600 GMT 7 Nov 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Abu-'Ala' [Ahmad Quray'], who holds the economics portfolio in the Palestinian Authority [PA], did not appear as scheduled to speak at the Jerusalem Business Conference today. Other Palestinian officials due to attend the conference told Israel Radio they are boycotting the event because of the continuation of a partial closure on the territories. Finance Minister Avraham Shohat is due to meet Abu-'Ala' on Wednesday [9 November] to discuss economic aspects of the Israel-PLO agreement.

PNC Acting Speaker on Transfer of Council, Elections

JN0811095194 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic 8 Nov 94 p 25

[Report by 'Awdah 'Awdah]

[FBIS Translated Text] Salim al-Za'nun, Palestine National Council [PNC] acting speaker, has stated that no decision has been made to transfer the PNC headquarters from Amman to Gaza.

Al-Za'nun told AL-RA'Y that at its recent Tunis meeting under President Yasir 'Arafat the Fatah Central Committee decided that what applies to the location of the PNC headquarters will also apply to the PLO headquarters, including the PLO Executive Committee.

Al-Za'nun added that even the convocation of the next PNC session in the occupied territories was not discussed at the Fatah Central Committee meeting as matters have yet to be elucidated and Israel still has to carry out some commitments before this issue is discussed.

Al-Za'nun who is also a Fatah Central Committee member, said that most PNC members believe that several conditions still have to be met before a decision is made on convening the PNC in the homeland. The following are the most important of these conditions:

—The Palestinian National Authority should first spread its authority to the other parts of the occupied West Bank.

—The 185 PNC members from the occupied territories should be elected and not appointed.

—All the Palestinian detainees in Israeli jails should be freed as they have the right to vote and run as candidates for the PNC.

—The PNC's agenda should be a complete agenda and not only contain the issue Israel wants discussed, that is the amendment of some Palestinian National Charter articles.

—That all the PNC members, including the opposition members should enter the occupied territories as citizens and not as visitors.

Al-Za'nun rejected the idea of appointing the 185 PNC members from the occupied territories and said it is necessary that they be elected by the PNC. He said that PNC bylaws do not permit the appointment of members except if it is impossible to hold elections. He pointed out that the situation in the occupied territories permits elections to be held.

Al-Za'nun emphasized the unity of the Palestinian people in and outside the homeland. He said: When we call for the election of a legislative council in the occupied territories, this council will be part of the PNC which represents the Palestinian people everywhere.

Jordanians Turn Back PA Police; Media Reacts

TA0711191994 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 7 Nov 94 p 2

[Report by Jon Immanuel and agencies]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Palestinian police officers who tried to cross the Allenby Bridge to Jordan yesterday were turned back by Jordanian officials on the other side, Jericho security chief Col. Jibril al-Rujub said.

Al-Rujub said that "there were some obstacles, and some officers were not able to cross." He told the POST that the problems were related to the sharp Palestinian opposition to King Husayn's peace treaty with Israel, especially as it concerns Jerusalem.

Al-Rujub himself has been one of the treaty's most vocal opponents, saying Husayn was "an unelected illegitimate" ruler and his claim to supervision of the Moslem Holy places in Jerusalem was "a declaration of war."

He described as "not enough" recent statements by Crown Prince Hasan and Prime Minister 'Abd-al-Salam al-Majali indicating Jordanian readiness to transfer supervision of the holy places if and when Palestinians achieve political sovereignty in Jerusalem.

"The Palestinian Authority [PA] will deal with this matter," said Lt. Sa'id Faris, a liaison officer at the bridge. He said Jordan demanded without warning that official travelers have Jordanian-issued passes in order to cross.

Brig.-Gen. Ghazi Jabali, the PLO's police commander in Gaza, said Palestinians should be able to cross without permits.

[Jerusalem Israel Television Channel 1 Network in Arabic at 1700 GMT on 7 November adds that a PA media official reacted to the incident by saying: "Such restrictions will lead to a poisoning of the atmosphere between the two parties. In addition, they contravene the arrangements that were agreed upon during previous rounds of dialogue by the Jordanian-Palestinian joint committee, which aim to enhance relations between the two parties."]

Ministry To Assume Responsibilities by 15 Nov

JN0411175394 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1515 GMT 4 Nov 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Dr. Dhiyab 'Ayyush, under secretary of the Social Affairs Ministry, expects that the ministry will assume its powers in the social affairs field by 15 November.

In a statement to the Voice of Palestine this evening, Dr. 'Ayyush said an agreement had been reached on the arrangements for the ministry to assume its powers, pending approval by the Palestinian and Israeli leaders on the proposed date. This took place in a meeting with the Israeli side in Ramallah on Tuesday, he added.

For his part, Bajis Isma'il, director general of the Tourism and Antiquities Ministry, has said the [Palestinian] National Authority will assume responsibilities for tourism in the West Bank by the end of this month. In a statement to our correspondent in Bethlehem, he added that the ministry has finalized all preparations to assume its responsibilities, and worked out plans to implement important touristic projects in order to accommodate the great numbers of tourists expected to visit Palestine.

In another development, Isma'il disapproved the statements made by Israeli Tourism Minister 'Uzi Bar'am on the Palestinian touristic plans in Bethlehem. He said any future plans will be an internal Palestinian affair. No one has the right to interfere in our internal affairs, he added.

Qaddumi Accuses Israel of al-'Abid Murder

JN0411210494 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 2000 GMT 4 Nov 94

[Statement by PLO Political Department Chief Faruq Qaddumi on the killing of Islamic activist Hani 'Abid in Gaza, in Tunis; date not given; from the "Panorama" program—recorded]

[FBIS Translated Text] The PLO should issue a statement on this subject. We have said that the Israeli security organs committed a terrorist crime in which struggler martyr journalist Hani 'Abid was killed. This affirms that Israel continues its state-terrorism. Israeli statements are still made by Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin to launch a large-scale terrorist campaign against the Palestinian citizens inside the occupied Palestinian territory. Therefore, the PLO condemns this criminal act and considers this an abominable crime targeted against the whole peace process. This, also, is an escalation of the chain of violence in the region.

We call on all national factions and political forces to reinforce their unity and to close ranks behind the PLO, the symbol of this independent entity, in the face of the continued Israeli threats, and to continue our national struggle to restore our national rights and to end Israeli occupation of our Palestinian territory in order to establish our independent Palestinian state, with Jerusalem as its capital, as well as to stop Israel's criminal chain.

'Ashrawi: Israel Should Change 'Occupier Mentality'

JN0511122894 Amman AL-ASWAQ in Arabic 5 Nov 94 p 17

[Article by Hanan 'Ashrawi, former spokesperson of the Palestinian delegation to the peace talks: "On the Palestinian Level, It Is Necessary Not To Mix Everything in the Same Pot"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The PLO and the Palestinian-Israeli peace process are at the brink of an abyss. The options for escaping this deadly dilemma are very limited. The PLO should either fulfill its commitments to Israel and the international community or defend the rights of Palestinians and treat the real problems. The PLO is losing much of its popular base and it is viewed by some sectors of Palestinians as a mere security tool in the hands of Israel or a mere body that focuses its attention on Israel's security requirements. This situation is the result of: a) the structure of the peace agreement, b) the Israeli mentality, and c) some mistakes by the Palestinian leadership.

In this context, it must be noted that many cautioned the Palestinian leadership, before the signing of the peace treaty, against the consequences of accepting the Israeli priorities in the peace process. The PLO-Israel agreement has placed many restrictions on the PLO's movement while the Israeli interference in the self-rule area has remained wide to the extent that it is undermining the PLO's status particularly in the eyes of its people. It is clear that the Israelis have the upper hand in the agreement. This means that they are putting the PLO to the test to make it prove its good conduct. Other than this, no one would be able to take a single step in the peace process without Israel's approval. The Israelis place security considerations above everything else and ignore the issue of the Palestinian Authority's [PA] legitimacy. This legitimacy stems from the approval of the Palestinian people and can be attained through the PLO's fulfillment of its obligations toward them. This legitimacy does not stem from the fulfillment of Palestinian pledges to the Israelis.

The roots of anger in Gaza are quite clear. The causes of indignation include economic wretchedness, bad conditions, the continued imprisonment of Palestinians, the absence of funds needed to make changes in the people's daily life, and Israel's persistence in its policy of confiscating Palestinian land to build settlements.

In such a situation, it appears that Israel is still holding on to the occupier mentality and that it has not switched to the mentality of the partner.

As we have seen, the root cause of the problem lies in the following question: Is the Palestinian government an authority that is accountable to its people first and before any other party? The pledges derived from these two fields sometimes clash with each other.

Now, we come to the mistakes committed by the PA. It is clear that the Palestinian leaders still have a revolution mentality and have not switched to a state-building mentality. Undoubtedly, they are facing a difficult situation. The Gaza Strip is like a powder keg and is suffering economic crises exacerbated by other developments. After the agreement, Gaza has become a big prison whose doors the Israelis can close or open as they wish.

We always said that the PLO would be making a mistake if it agreed to receive power without further guarantees for territorial integrity of the Palestinian lands. Therefore, I believe that the PA now should stop adopting a defensive policy and start adopting initiatives that would prove that it is more than a security tool or a body solely concerned with fulfilling its pledges to Israel. I refuse to liken the Palestinian Authority and the Vichy Government during the German occupation. I also believe that the PLO can move and shed light on the Palestinian concerns such as prisoners, land confiscation, and improving living conditions. Then, it can stop subjecting these concerns to the requirements of Israeli security alone.

Moreover, I believe that the PA should make a distinction between the political body of Hamas [the Islamic Resistance Movement] and its military wing ['Izz al-Din al-Qassam Battalions]. It should not mix the two in one pot and it should prevent any violation of Palestinian rights like banning gatherings and political affiliation. The only way to overcome the current dilemma is to expand the range of the PA's responsibility and stop making it a tool for Israel's security.

Here, we should also mention that the PA was not given sufficient time to treat the social and economic problems, but this does not give it an excuse not to focus its efforts and attention on these problems immediately.

It remains to be said that the seriousness of continuing the current situation lies in the fact that it undermines the legitimacy of the PA and, ultimately, the authority itself. Israel's excessive concentration on security considerations accelerates the undermining of this legitimacy. In other words, the Israelis are undermining the peace process even though it is still the best option despite all its shortcomings, which should be overcome. Clearly, almost all the keys of a solution are in the hands of Israel, which should really switch from the mentality of the occupier to that of a partner. Will Israel do so?

Jerusalem Mufti: Holy Places for All Muslims

JN0411171194 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1515 GMT 4 Nov 94

[FBIS Translated Text] His Eminence Shaykh 'Ikrimah Sabri, the mufti of Jerusalem, has said Jerusalem and the Islamic holy places are the property of all Muslims in the world, and that the Palestinian people have the right to control and run the Islamic holy places on behalf of all Muslims. This will be achieved sooner or later, he added.

In a statement to our correspondent during a visit to the city of Qalqilyah at noon today, Shaykh Sabri called for coordination with the Arab and Muslim brothers, stemming from the values of our true religion, and not out of weakness or dereliction.

Regarding the Israeli measures to divide the Ibrahim Mosque in Hebron, and the preparations by the Israeli occupation authorities to temporarily reopen the mosque on Monday, Shaykh Sabri said: No side, apart from the Palestinians, has the right to supervise or run the mosque. He described these measures as a flagrant encroachment upon all Muslims and mosques.

For his part, Hebron mayor Engineer Mustafa al-Natshah has said: We have not been officially notified of the reopening of the mosque. We reject the principle of separating Muslim and Jewish worshipers. He described this phase as being serious. There is high tension, and there are fanatics among the Israeli settlers, he added.

Sa'ib 'Urayqat Confers With Czech Delegation

JN0411172794 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1515 GMT 4 Nov 94

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Dr. Sa'ib 'Urayqat, minister of local government in the Palestinian National Authority [PNA], met this morning with the visiting Czech delegation, led by [Alexandr] Vondra, minister of state for foreign affairs [title as heard]. Both sides discussed ways of cooperation and strengthening friendship between the Palestinian Authority and the Czech Government. More details in the following interview conducted with Dr. Sa'ib 'Urayqat by colleague Ahmad Zaki:

[Begin recording] [Zaki] Dr. Sa'ib 'Urayqat, minister of local government in the National Authority. You met today with the Czech delegation. What are the most important topics you discussed with Vondra, Czech minister of state for foreign affairs?

['Urayqat] The Czech minister of state for foreign affairs came from Jordan this morning. He is the first Czech official to visit the PNA area. By order of His Excellency President Yasir 'Arafat, we received him this morning. He will visit Gaza on Wednesday [9 November] to hold official meeting with the president and with the ministers of economy, finance, and international cooperation. We discussed the experiment of the past five months in the PNA area and the difficulties we are facing, particularly in terms of uneasiness and Israeli slowness in implementing the Declaration of Principles. The Czeck delegation was especially interested in the issue of elections. We presented a detailed explanationon the talks and where we have gone, out of our concern for holding elections. They asked in which field they can help, despite their simple potentials. They showed interest in helping in the field of training security men. These issues, as well as other issues, will be discussed during the meeting with the president. [passage omitted] [end recording]

Vondra, Czech minister of state for foreign affairs, said at the end of the meeting: We are trying to give momentum to the peace process in the region. He added: We are not a rich country, however, we will participate in building the Palestinian West Bank according to our potentials.

Algeria

President, FIS Leaders Renew Contacts

NC0711142294 Paris AFP in English 1340 GMT 7 Nov 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Algiers, Nov 7 (AFP)—Representatives of the Algerian president recently met the leaders of the banned Islamic Salvation Front (FIS), renewing the talks process that appeared to have failed last month, the EL HIWAR daily said Monday [7 November].

The presidential representative met Abassi Madani and Ali Belhadj in the residence where they are held under house arrest, EL HIWAR, the journal of the National Liberation Front, the former sole ruling party, said.

A spokesman for the Islamic movement, fighting the government since the military stopped the second round of elections in 1992, told the paper that talks were continuing.

"The FIS has not closed the door to talks that could bring a peaceful end to the current crisis," the spokesman said.

EL HIWAR, which is generally well informed on the Islamic movement, did not give the name or title of the presidential representatives nor details of what was discussed in the talks.

The paper also said that Madani and Belhadj had gone on hunger strike for two days last week but gave no further details.

On Sunday, an FIS spokesman told AFP he had met the two FIS leaders earlier that day in their residence in Djenane El Mufti in the centre of Algiers.

Last week, the FIS leadership said it had had no news on the two for a week after the authorities banned visits and cut telephone links.

The two men were released from prison on September 13 into house arrest and held talks through October with government officials.

A week ago President Liamine Zeroual said the talks had failed and accused the FIS leaders of continuing to sponsor violence.

Thousands of people have died in two and a half years of fighting in Algeria, killed by the security forces or by one of the Islamic fundamentalist movements.

Ait-Ahmed Urges Resumption of Dialogue

BR0711151894 Paris LIBERATION in French 7 Nov 94 pp 12-13

[Interview with Hocine Ait-Ahmed, secretary general of the Algerian Socialist Forces Front, by Jose Garcon; place and date not given: "Hocine Ait-Ahmed: 'The Problem Is To Prevent All-Out War'"]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Garcon] You have often said that Algeria was in a "pre-civil war" state. Is this civil war inevitable?

[Ait-Ahmed] We warned the government on the eve of the suspension of the election that the cure would be worse than the disease. Today, the list of victims speaks for itself: More than 30,000 people killed since the beginning of 1992. We are no longer at the stage of simple police operations or individual attacks, but are facing an armed conflict with large-scale confrontations which are increasingly violent. The economic and social situation, moreover, is deteriorating at a lightning rate. These are all the ingredients of a civil war, but Algeria has not fallen into it thanks to the calmness and clear-sightedness of the population, which still refuses to be drawn into state violence or the Islamic fundamentalist violence.

But the head of state's latest speech follows the rationale of confrontation, ignoring the lesson of the past two years. Closing the door to serious dialogue and calling for "eradication" have resulted in a bloodbath. Blind attacks and the scale of the collective reprisals all indicate a leap in the dark and an extremist adventure, the consequences of which may be as daunting as the 11 January 1992 coup d'etat. It is as if the fact that no side can win a military victory means that government and the most radical Islamic fundamentalists only have terror to win over the population.

But, behind this rationale of confrontation, real civil war strategies are taking shape. The government seems to have moved from a defensive strategy to ensure its own security, which resulted in abandoning the population of certain areas and the collapse of whole parts of the state, to an offensive strategy of winning back the population in the territorial and political spheres. The people are no longer just being forced to choose a camp, they are now being urged to accept arms. The government is currently distributing arms and is drawing up lists of "reliable people" who can be armed and organized by the security forces. The formation of militias is part of a "civil defense" plan drawn up last winter, and it is now to be implemented.

As for the Islamic fundamentalists, they too seem to have taken a further step, increasing the exemplary or punitive actions whereas, until recent months, they had been trying not to alienate the population. It is this scorched earth policy which is likely to lead us into civil war.

[Garcon] Could the presidential election announced by the head of state constitute a solution to the crisis?

[Ait-Ahmed] Let us ignore the lie that a presidential election is being demanded by political circles and is a return to the electoral process! Let us also be cautious about the promises, which are rarely kept. And let us not talk about the terrible consequences which the fierce rivalries within the regime to appoint a candidate are likely to have...it being understood that the future president will be a man of the system!

It is almost surreal to think that it is possible to organize a return to the ballot box at a time when only arms have a voice, when the state is disintegrating, and when any political activity is forbidden. In this affair, the government wants two things: to reply to the pressures of its partners who are demanding a political solution to the crisis and to give itself some degree of legitimacy enabling it to ensure the continuation of the system. This is a far cry from the "new departure" without which nothing will be possible.

[Garcon] What can be done, in view of the failure of dialogue?

[Ait-Ahmed] Let us be serious, let us not talk about the failure of a dialogue which has not taken place. Every effort has been made on one side to deliver the Islamic movement into the hands of the extremists, and on the other side to destroy all possible political mediation. Despite that, dialogue is a duty for one reason: There is no other way of halting the present carnage.

[Garcon] Are you in favor of reopening dialogue?

[Ait-Ahmed] We must not miss any chance of ending the hatred which threatens to swallow up our country. Demanding a political solution does not amount to capitulation, compromise, or naive otherworldliness, but to very basic realism. The problem is to prevent all-out war and restore peace. It is also time to understand that Algeria cannot be reduced to a confrontation between Islamic fundamentalists and the military. Nothing is immutable, and two and a half years of violence have matured the population, and I am sure that it will wake up and impose itself as a major political force.

[Garcon] However, this "alternative path" is hampered by the divisions among the democrats.

[Ait-Ahmed] Although there are strategic problems among the parties, let us abandon the idea that building a democratic force boils down to agreements among leaderships. In addition, democrats are not confined to the political parties, they are everywhere in society.

It is primarily the reign of violence and the paralysis of public life which are preventing these forces from grouping and expressing their views.

[Garcon] Are you not afraid that the Berber cultural demands will escalate in the present situation?

[Ait-Ahmed] We must get rid of the obsession with the existence of a "Kabylia problem." The reality is that the regime obstinately refuses to accept a linguistic demand which should have been automatic: official recognition of the tamazight—Berber—language and the teaching of this language in schools. Thirty-two years of exclusion is enough—this is the message conveyed by the huge peaceful demonstrations staged recently by the Berber Cultural Movement. The danger lies in the government's maneuvers and manipulations to win over Kabylia. Its strategy is clear: to replace the struggle for democracy which faces the whole of society with a Kabylia-fundamentalist conflict with potentially disastrous consequences. The Algerian populations of Kabylia, who have not been taken in, are rejecting any "ghettoization" and refusing to become a battlefield. They just want to be one of the bastions of the alternative path.

[Garcon] What exactly do you want from the international community?

[Ait-Ahmed] Like all Algerians, I am opposed to any foreign interference. It is for us alone to solve our problems. But how can we fail to see that there is interference when the government constantly calls on foreign countries to help it to fight the consequences of the policy it has pursued for 30 years? Or when some fundamentalist states support the most radical of the Algerian Islamic fundamentalists? This interference merely encourages the policy of taking a leap in the dark. Algeria's partners must clearly impose political conditions on any economic and financial aid. Their silence on the summary executions and collective reprisals is scandalous. But, for the time being, there is one urgent matter: The protagonists of violence must shoulder their responsibilities once and for all. The Islamic fundamentalists must stop their escalation and give specific public signs that they accept and will honor a compromise based on a democratic "minimum." The army must stop acting and making decisions on the basis of the preservation of its own interests. As long as those in power think that they have their backs to the wall, we should fear the worst. All Algerians have a right to guarantees and these must be negotiated. Nobody must ignore the fact that rejecting a political solution to the crisis leads directly to chaos.

Renewal Party Supports Presidential Elections

LD0711174994 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 7 Nov 94

[FBIS Translated Text] The Algerian Renewal Party has declared its support for the state president's decision to hold presidential elections before the end of 1995. A statement by the party released today said that President Liamine Zeroual's decision was bound to consolidate the people's sovereignty.

The Algerian Renewal Party proposed that the presidential elections should be followed by legislative, and then municipal and provincial elections.

Two Newspapers Hit With One-Month Suspension

LD0711190694 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in French 1800 GMT 7 Nov 94

[FBIS Translated Text] The publication of the French-language daily EL OUMMA and the weekly Arabic-language EL WADJH EL-AKHAR have been suspended for one month beginning 8 November. The decision was made by the Interior Ministry after the two papers helped spread tendentious and subversive information. According to the Interior Ministry's statement, the two papers also justified crime and undermined public order and the nation's security and interests.

Security Forces Kill 16 'Terrorists'

LD0711191894 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1830 GMT 7 Nov 94

[FBIS Translated Text] A statement by the security services mentioned that its forces have managed to kill 16 terrorists between Friday [4 November] and Sunday in the provinces of M'Sila, Boumerdes, Skikda, Blida, Tebessa, Relizane, Bejaia, and Jijel. The statement added that the security forces have managed to recover a number of weapons and ammunition, and different documents.

'Terrorists' Kill 2 Sisters for Refusing Marriage

LD0711184594 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in French 1800 GMT 7 Nov 94

[FBIS Translated Text] The bodies of two young girls were discovered in the Blida region [south of Algiers] this morning. The two sisters had been knifed to death. Zoulikha and Saida Boughedou were assassinated because they refused to contract a temporary marriage [zawaj al-mut'ah] with terrorists. The two victims had been abducted, along with their parents and brother, from their home by a group of terrorists last Friday at about 1900 near Bir Touta.

Further on Killing of Sisters

LD0711204994 Algiers ENTV Television Network in Arabic 1900 GMT 7 Nov 94

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] [passage omitted] Saida, 15 years old, and Zoulikha, 19 years old, have today joined the dead. Everything started yesterday at 1930 when an armed group burst into the house of a family which lived in Sidi Mohamed area, Bir Touta municipality, Blida Province. The terrorists kidnapped the whole family composed of five members, including Saida and Zoulikha, two students at secondary school and university.

Saida and Zoulikha were found this morning on the highway to Blida. The fate of the remaining members of the family is still unknown.

According to the information which we have obtained, it is rumored that Saida and Zoulikha were kidnapped for a temporary marriage, and that the rest of the family was taken to convince their two daughters of that, and make temporary marriage religiously permissible [halal].

The end was like this, by committing this ugly crime where the criminals have slain these two girls [as heard]. The security services found the two corpses without heads, and took them to Blida Hospital where their heads were stitched.

Economic Adviser Expresses Optimism, Concern

LD0711152194 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1200 GMT 7 Nov 94

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Abdelmadjid Bouzidi, the economic adviser to the head of state, held a news conference this morning during which he talked about the economic situation in the country and the standby agreement with the IMF, six months after its implementation. Mourad Madaoui with more details about the conference:

[Madaoui] The first impression one could get from this media gathering is that preliminary assessment of the agreement with the IMF indicates that the process is progressing as planned and in a positive direction. The optimism of the state is clearly manifested in the available statistics that forecast an improvement in the balance of payments, estimated at $800 million, and, consequently, a rise of about $2.3 billion in reserves by the end of March next year. This is in contrast to the $1.5 billion stipulated in the standby agreement.

According to the economic adviser Bouzidi, the optimism is manifested in the economic growth rate, which is forecast to reach an estimated six percent by the end of the first period of the IMF agreement in March 1995; the figure calculated in the IMF agreement is three percent.

However, Bouzidi said that embarking on a rescheduling of debts was easy but emerging out of it required painstaking effort, and that it was tantamount to a challenge that we had to control and fulfill the conditions stipulated in the agreement in order to avoid other consequences.

At the beginning of his statement, Bouzidi talked about indicators showing that the national economy was in complete stagnation [as heard]. In his opinion this became evident on the basis of the following facts: Three percent fall in national revenue and a 15.3 percent decline in investments. The same period witnessed a big decline in the production capacity, which was functioning at 50 percent of full capacity, while the other half was frozen and in total stagnation.

Other indicators showed that the national economy was proceeding at a minimal rate and the rate of unemployment rose to about 28 percent last year, the servicing of foreign debts reached $9.1 billion, and the rate of inflation went up. [passage omitted]

'Positive' Economic Future Seen as Imports Rise

LD0711220494 Algiers ENTV Television Network in Arabic 1900 GMT 7 Nov 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Algerian imports are rising and this has been reflected in the figures disclosed by the office of the minister delegate to the treasury. These figures also give positive indications for the future of the national economy, particularly after the signing of the standby agreement with the IMF. More details follow:

[Begin unidentified correspondent recording] According to the office of the minister delegate to the treasury, Algeria's imports were estimated at 4.121 billion dollars between January and July 1994. The ministry attributes this increase to several factors, including the lifting of financial restrictions, the conditional [as heard] agreement signed with the IMF, the facilitation of import procedures and the reorganization of external trade by public and private contractors.

It is worth noting that the public and private sector received a larger share of the money distributed, with the first obtaining 3.364 billion dollars and the second 221 million dollars. Regarding imported goods, the ministry said that the operation focused essentially on ways to put the system of production in operation [as heard]. It added that any businessman who wanted to import goods could do so provided that he obtained a loan from a bank.

Finally, it is worth mentioning that the money allocated for 1994 imports has been put at 9.4 billion dollars. [end recording]

Minister on Aid to Small, Medium Enterprises

LD0711222094 Algiers ENTV Television Network in Arabic 1900 GMT 7 Nov 94

[FBIS Translated Text] At a news conference with representatives of the national press held two days ago, Mr. Redha Hamiani, minister of light and medium industry, said that the revitalization of this sector is a possible, not impossible, mission and that important measures have been taken to this effect. Over to Amar Halles:

[Halles] Minister Redha Hamiani said that the national economy could achieve a six percent growth rate if the measures taken recently were well implemented. He also talked about the important role which the small and medium-sized enterprises could play as a driving force for the growth of the national economy.

The minister adds that 23,000 small and medium-sized enterprises currently share 35 percent of the country's gross domestic product. This, he says, is a very low percentage in comparison with those recorded in some Mediterranean countries. In order to overcome this difference, the Ministry for Light and Medium Industry recently defined the main points of its program aimed at improving this sector. New measures have been taken to restore the means of production currently in operation which are in a very poor state. Other measures have been taken with regard to the tax and customs systems and the sectors of investments and imports, in addition to the restructuring of enterprises.

The minister also talked about the banking measures recently taken to help some enterprises overcome their financial problems. These include $900 million which the Bank of Algeria has made available to these enterprises which will be able to borrow $500,000 each in hard currency provided that they have the equivalent amount in Algerian dinars. Finally, the minister said that there are projects to set up specialized insurance companies, investment companies, and other companies with unsecured capital.

[Announcer] Mr. Redha Hamiani will today start a six-day official visit to Spain which will take him to Barcelona, Madrid, and Valencia. The minister of small and medium-sized enterprises will be accompanied by representatives from the Bank of Algeria, the Ministry of Industrial Restructuring, the Ministry of Tourism, banks and managers of some companies. This visit will give be an opportunity for the managers of Algerian and Spanish companies to meet with a view to developing partnership between small and medium-sized enterprises in the two countries. Mr. Redha Hamiani is also due to meet members of the Spanish government, especially the ministers of industry, energy, trade and tourism.

Protection of Economic Installations Discussed

LD0711155794 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1200 GMT 7 Nov 94

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Revitalization of industrial development on the basis of the the Ministry of Industry and Energy's new organization, the security and protection of economic installations, determining the responsibilities of directors of industries and mines at provincial level, and the submission of reports on the performance of each provincial director were the focus of an important meeting at the ministry this morning, the opening of which was presided over by Amar Mekhloufi, the minister of industry and energy.

The meeting, the first of its kind, aims at mobilizing everyone at local level to protect economic installations from sabotage and arson in coordination with local authorities, contribute toward the revitalization of industrial development, and the submission of proposals with a view to promoting and revitalizing the sector. [passage omitted]

Egypt

Security Forces Uncover Extremist Group Port Said

NC0711173094 Cairo AL-AHRAM AL-MASA'I in Arabic 29 Oct 94 p 9

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] The security organs have succeeded in capturing an extremist cell in Port Said that was preparing to incite the masses, spread hatred of the ruling regime, and disseminate these ideas among school children to build a wide base of people with extremist ideas.

Information received by the security organs confirmed that an accountant in the organization and management department was leading an extremist organization working to violate the Constitution, propagate hatred against the ruling regime, and incite the masses. The group used the mosques of al-Ghifran, al-Madinah al-Munawwarah, al-Ghandur, 'Umar Bin-al-Khattab, and al-Zahra' as pulpits for disseminating their ideas and recruiting more members. [passage omitted]

The state security intelligence service and a unit from the terrorism combating forces raided the houses of the organization's members. They arrested Tariq 'Awad, an accountant with the Organization and Management Department [not further identified] and leader of the group; 'Ala' al-'Adl, (the group's amir); Ra'uf al-'Adl, student; Diya' al-'Adl, (unemployed); Walid al-Halawani, (the group's mufti); 'Isam 'Id Yusuf, (dentist); Ibrahim al-'Asi, student; Ibrahim 'Abd-al-Hamid, student; Fathi Shahin, student in the College of Medicine; and Ahmad Muhammad al-'Assas, teacher. Pamphlets and booklets advocating hatred for the regime and calling for sowing confusion among the masses were found with them. [passage omitted]

Opposition Issues Resolutions Against Market

NC0711165594 Cairo AL-SHA'B in Arabic 1 Nov 94 p 3

[Statement by opposition parties at conclusion of conference held at the Liberal Party's new headquarters in Cairo on 30 October]

[FBIS Translated Text] Political and patriotic forces have held a conference that was attended by a large number of the public to confront the normalization conspiracy and the attempt to consecrate the Middle East market, advocated by the Casablanca summit that is meeting under the slogan (economic cooperation among Middle Eastern and North African countries).

The conferees adopted the following resolutions:

1. To condemn the Casablanca conference, normalization, and the Middle East market and to call on the Egyptian Government and other Arab governments associated with this conference to withdraw publicly from it and proclaim their rejection of its resolutions and policies.

2. To establish an Egyptian grouping opposed to normalization, the Middle East market, and the abolition of the boycott of Israel.

3. To reject the new and old Camp David agreements and the policy they represent, which dictate the Arab nation's surrender.

4. To revive the common Arab market and collective Arab action organizations and issue a call for an Arab summit conference designed to halt the current Arab decline.

5. To end the unjust blockade of Arab people in Iraq and Libya.

The conferees also emphasized the following:

1. To form a joint committee of members from all political parties, political forces, and associations to resist normalization and enlighten the public about the dangers of the Middle East market.

2. To encourage media coordination among the opposition parties and forces as a prelude for a broad-based campaign exposing Israeli schemes in the region.

3. To coordinate with all Arab countries to confront these schemes on a pan-Arab level.

4. To urge Arab businessmen and economists to refuse to participate in Zionist ventures or coordinate with Israeli businessmen.

'Egyptian Corps' Said Operating Within Hamas

NC0811082994 Cairo AL-'ARABI in Arabic 31 Oct pp 1, 5

[Report by Khalid Salah and 'Abd-al-Fattah 'Abd-al-Mun'im]

[FBIS Translated Text] AL-'ARABI has learned from knowledgeable sources that the Egyptian Embassy in Tel Aviv has received a report from the Israeli enemy authorities on unearthing a secret organization in Kafr Qasim in occupied Palestine. The organization is called "the Egyptian corps [al-faylaq al-misri] in the Hamas Movement [Islamic Resistance Movement]."

The report says that the organization consists of 18 Egyptians led by dentist Rawwash 'Umar. 'Umar was a close friend of 'Isam al-Jawhari, the martyr of the Jerusalem operation. The report adds that 'Umar studied medicine in Romania, where he was recruited by the Hamas leaders. Martyr 'Isam met with Rawwash 'Umar upon the latter's return to Egypt. 'Umar managed to convince 'Isam to join the Egyptian corps.

The Israeli report urged the Egyptian authorities to help gather information on Dr. Rawwash and other members who are detained in Israel. The Israeli report reveals that maps were seized along with the detainees showing the locations of Israelis in tourist sites in Sinai in preparation for carrying out fedayeen operations.

Meanwhile, the Egyptian Foreign Ministry is still refusing to hand over the body of martyr 'Isam al-Jawhari to his family. Despite Egyptian Human Rights Organization's appeals, the security service continues to detain Usamah al-Jawhari, brother of martyr 'Isam; he is incommunicado at the al-Qanatir prison.

'Fugitive Terrorist' Killed; 26 Arrested

NC0811153894 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1355 GMT 8 Nov 94

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Cairo, 8 Nov (MENA)—Fugitive terrorist Hasan Salih Hasan Mahmud was killed in a shoot out with the security forces today. He was a prominent aide of terrorist Tal'at Yasin Hammam, who was killed last April.

An official security source in the Ministry of Interior has stated that 26 terrorists were arrested at dawn today by the State Security Investigations and anti-terrorism squads.

He added that the forces stormed all terrorist hideouts in Cairo, Giza, Alexandria, and al-Buhayrah, 15 hideouts, and confiscated all the guns and explosives that were found there.

The source explained that the State Security detectives had unveiled a new attempt by these terrorist elements to reorganize their ranks under the leadership of fugitive terrorist Hasan Salih Hasan Mahmud. Information available to the State Security detectives proved that the said terrorist had received instructions from fugitive terrorist leaders abroad to form this organization of the fugitive terrorists in Cairo, Giza, Alexandria, and al-Buhayrah, the source said.

He added that these elements planned a series of terrorist operations to cause chaos. They had plans to attack the Supreme State Security court in Heliopolis to cut loose some of the organization leaders who are being held in connection with cases of terrorism. They also had plans to attack state figures and security leaders, the source added. [passage omitted]

Appeal To Review Sentences of 'Terrorists' Rejected

NC0811153294 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1200 GMT 8 Nov 94

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Cairo, 8 Nov (MENA)—An appeal to review the sentences issued against convicts in the al-Mahmudiyah case was turned down today. The sentences are now final, irrevocable, and must be carried out. The death sentence is supposed to be carried out against the first convict in the next few days.

The Supreme Military Court issued the death sentences against two defendants, one of whom is at large, on 20 September. The court sentenced a fugitive defendant to 15 years at hard labor; two defendants, one at large, to 10 years at hard labor; four defendants, one at large, to five years with hard labor; and two defendants to three years at hard labor.

The defendants were found guilty of joining a group founded in violation of the law. Terrorism was one of the methods this group used. They were also found guilty of conspiring to overthrow the regime by force and of possessing unlicensed weapons.

The first defendant attended a special training in spying in a state close to Egypt. He and the second defendant were trained in terrorist methods outside Egypt. [passage omitted]

Violence Reported in Cairo, Qina, al-Minya

NC0811130594 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1207 GMT 8 Nov 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Qina, 8 Nov (MENA)—Police guard Badawi Abu-al-Majd was killed in the Farshut area in Qina Governorate today when he was attacked by unidentified men.

The criminals managed to seize the guard's weapon and escape. The Qina security forces threw a security cordon around the area and raked the vicinity in search of the criminals. The public prosecution started investigations into the incident.

[Paris AFP in English, in a related Cairo-datedlined item at 1125 GMT reported the following:

["Police on Tuesday killed a suspected Moslem militant in Cairo, while suspected militants shot dead a civilian guard in southern Egypt, police said.

["Hasan Salah Hasan died in a shootout with police when they went to arrest him in the northern Cairo district of al-Zawiyah al-Hamra', police said.

["The militant was among "prominent terrorist elements" who took part in the killing earlier this year of Ra'uf Khayrat, an intelligence officer in the security forces, police said.

["Meanwhile militants shot dead a civilian guard in Qina province, 650 kilometers (403 miles) south of Cairo, police said.

["Badri Abu al-Majd Husayn was on his way home from the police station in Kawm al-Biiah village when gunmen opened fire.

["The militants stole Husayn's firearm and fled the scene.

["In the southern town of Mallawi a policeman, Hasan Jabir Salim, was seriously wounded when gunmen opened fire on him as he was leaving a police station.

["Police in the station returned fire and Salim was caught in the crossfire, police said. The militants fled the scene.

["Gunmen also shot at two police vehicles Monday night in Mallawi, but there were no casualties.

["The town lies in al-Minya province, 240 kilometers (150 miles) south of Cairo, which has become the new militant stronghold following a crackdown in neighbouring Asyut province.

["Militants launched a campaign of violence in March 1992 in a bid to topple the secularist government. More than 480 people have died in the violence."]

Unidentified Gunmen Wounds Noncommissioned Officer

NC0811134594 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1235 GMT 8 Nov 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 8 Nov (MENA)—A noncommissioned officer in the Hur police station in the

Mallawi police center in al-Minya was wounded today when unidentified gunmen opened fire on him. He was immediately taken to the hospital for treatment.

This statement was made by an official source in the Interior Ministry, who said that unidentified men opened fire at 0600 today at noncommissioned officer Hassan Jabir Salim as he was heading home from the police station.

The source added that the police immediately returned fire, forcing the perpetrators to flee after wounding the policeman.

Leading cadres in the al-Minya Security Directorate, detective agencies, and the criminology laboratory went to the scene of the incident to examine it. Meanwhile, the police continue their efforts to apprehend the perpetrators.

Mubarak, Burundian President Discuss Issues

NC0611102394 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0925 GMT 6 Nov 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 6 Nov (MENA)—This morning President Husni Mubarak held a round of talks at the presidential headquarters with Burundian President Sylvestre Ntibantunganya, who is currently visiting Egypt. The two presidents discussed important African issues and events in Somalia and Rwanda. They also discussed regional and international issues of mutual interest.

The Burundian president arrived in Cairo yesterday on a two-day visit to Egypt.

Reportage on Turkish Prime Minister's Visit

Ciller Comments on Peace Process

TA0711150494 Ankara TRT Television Network in Turkish 1200 GMT 7 Nov 94

[Zafer Kiraz video report from Cairo]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Prime Minister Tansu Ciller, currently on an official visit to Egypt, held a meeting with Turkish reporters last night. She noted that the Middle East peace process is not yet fully established. Commenting on her visit to Gaza, which is under Palestinian rule, Ciller said that the people in the region are left without employment and that there are attempts to have Gaza remain a closed area. Ciller explained that, despite expectations for investments of $2.2 billion in the region, this amount failed to arrive for various reasons. She added: If this fails to materialize or is delayed, this peace process, which we all view as a hope and which we must see as a good beginning, may backfire in a short time.

Ciller pointed out that the international community must play a role and assume responsibility in this regard. She noted that Turkey is contributing to a certain extent to the assumption of this responsibility.

Replying to questions, Ciller remarked that Turkey is pursuing a Middle East policy that is more than careful, balanced, and passive. She declared: In my opinion, a passive policy can no longer be pursued in the Middle East. The Middle East is beyond that. In doing this, however, we must use our sensitive position very carefully. I believe that we will use this in the best way for the Middle East and for the countries with which we want to cooperate, as well as for our own country. I no longer believe that it is possible to achieve something in the Middle East without touching anything. Ciller stressed that any extremism standing in the way of the peace process must be opposed regardless of religion. [passage omitted]

Ciller Holds News Conference

NC0711194194 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1835 GMT 7 Nov 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 7 Nov (MENA)—Turkish Prime Minister Tansu Ciller described President Mubarak as a courageous and serious man for continuing the peace process begun by the late President Anwar al-Sadat.

Speaking at a news conference she held before leaving Cairo this afternoon, Mrs. Ciller said that her talks with Egyptian officials were short but very fruitful and that the two countries have identical views on regional and international issues. She emphasized the depth of the excellent Egyptian-Turkish relations and the importance of economic cooperation between them and of encouraging the private sector to set up joint projects and economic firms and to expand bilateral trade.

She noted that a transport agreement was signed in addition to the two agreements signed during Prime Minister Dr. 'Atif Sidqi's visit to Turkey on protection of investments and avoidance of dual taxation. She expressed hope that the agreement will be implemented soon.

The Turkish prime minister said: There were identical views on the establishment of a Middle East market, but it is too early for that. As governments, we must find sound bases for reaching this goal by encouraging the private sector. She added: The world around us is changing and we have to contribute to the achievement of peace, confront terrorism, and cooperate to achieve integration between the countries of the region so that peace will not become fragile. She stressed the need to give impetus to peace between Palestine and Israel and on the other tracks because time is passing quickly and a delay could lead to the collapse of peace.

She noted that the Jerusalem issue is a very sensitive one and that the city is very important for Muslims, Christians, and Jews. She stressed that any solution to the issue should take this fact into account and that it should be compatible with the UN resolutions.

Mrs. Ciller said that her country's relations with Israel are as good as Egypt's relations with Israel. She added: At the same time, we have been standing firmly with the Palestinian brothers since the beginning of the conflict for the sake of the future generations so that they can say that they can live together in peace and prosperity.

On the results of her visit to Israel, she said that it was beneficial to peace in the Middle East and that the courageous actions by the region's leaders to reach peace should be backed by the international community.

She stressed that she did not carry any message from Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi to the Israeli leaders. She also emphasized her country's support for the territorial integrity of Iraq and Kuwait. She said: Turkey strongly condemns any country's aggression against another one in the region and also condemns terrorism. We are working to convince Iraq to comply with the UN resolutions and are cooperating with Egypt in confronting terrorism.

Mrs. Ciller added that the recent Casablanca summit conference was a rational one working for the future. She added: We should not be content with signing economic agreements but have to achieve peace through economic cooperation. She said that the Casablanca summit message stresses that security in other regions is linked to that of the Middle East and therefore each country is being asked to achieve it.

She emphasized the importance of finding a quick solution to the Bosnian problem at the earliest possible opportunity and within the framework of the UN resolutions to save humanity and put an end to the tragedy in that area, which lies at the heart of Europe.

Ciller Leaves Cairo

NC0711165494 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1600 GMT 7 Nov 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 7 Nov (MENA)—Turkish Prime Minister Tansu Ciller left Cairo today after a two-day visit. Prime Minister Dr. 'Atif Sidqi saw her off at the airport.

Turkey Urged 'To Slow Down Its Rush' for Future

NC0811095694 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0600 GMT 8 Nov 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 8 Nov (MENA)—AL-AHRAM emphasizes that Turkish Prime Minister Tansu Ciller's tour of Israel, the self-rule areas, and Egypt clearly reveals Turkey's views on the so-called new Middle East and Turkey's role in it.

In a commentary published today, the paper notes that if Ciller's visit to the region falls within the context of consolidating the distinguished bilateral ties, supreme Arab interests require coordination with Turkey to slow down its rush toward launching the so-called Middle East until a just settlement of the question of the occupied Arab territories is reached. AL-AHRAM points out that Israel must not be allowed to reap the benefits and results of a settlement before it withdraws from the remaining occupied Arab territories, in fulfillment of internationally binding resolutions.

In conclusion, the paper acknowledges that, in all cases, Turkey will play a role in the new Middle East after--not before—a settlement is reached.

Syrian Foreign Minister on Clinton's Visit

NC0711141694 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1315 GMT 7 Nov 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 7 Nov (MENA)—Asked if any progress has been achieved on the timetable for the withdrawal from the Golan, al-Shar' said: I can say that U.S. President Bill Clinton's recent visit to Damascus, especially his talks with President Hafiz al-Asad, produced positive results. I believe the U.S. President made statements calling for optimism. He noted that some progress was made.

The Syrian foreign minister added that President Clinton personally wants to follow up the peace process on the Syrian and Lebanese tracks and that Warren Christopher will visit before the end of this month to see what tangible progress can be achieved on these two tracks.

Asked about the Syrian stance following the Casablanca summit, al-Shar' said: We exchanged views on this issue with 'Amr Musa and we are still following up the proceedings of the Casablanca meetings. He added: There is long-standing coordination between Syria and Egypt and it will continue for the good of the two fraternal countries and the Arab nation.

Asked whether there has been any progress recently on the Syrian-Israeli track, al-Shar' said: It is difficult to gauge progress with a tape measure. We hope for tangible progress soon.

The Syrian foreign minister was asked whether Syria sensed U.S. support for a complete withdrawal from the Golan in exchange for peace during U.S. President Bill Clinton's talks with President al-Asad. He said: We sensed the United States' understanding of the theme of a complete withdrawal in return for a complete peace.

Comments on Talks With Musa, Leaves

NC0711193494 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1630 GMT 7 Nov 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 7 Nov (MENA)—Syrian Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' left Cairo this evening after a brief visit that lasted several hours.

Al-Shar' said he and Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa discussed all aspects of the Arab situation, which is deteriorating every day. He added that there was emphasis on the Egyptian-Syrian role in improving the Arab situation in confronting the current challenges.

He said: We touched on the peace process in light of U.S. President Bill Clinton's tour of the region, noting that his talks with President al-Asad in Damascus were positive. He said: We hope that the U.S. secretary of state's upcoming visit to the region at the end of this month will result in tangible progress, especially on the Syrian-Israeli track.

He affirmed that Syria has done all it could to make the peace process in the region a success and said the ball is now in Israel's court.

Al-Shar' denied reports on talks between Syria and Israel in Washington and on President (?al-Asad's) agreement on Israel's withdrawal from the Golan in six months, describing these reports as inaccurate. He said that an agreement may be reached after U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher's visit by the end of this month to resume the negotiations in Washington on clear and sound bases.

He said that some contacts are still held through Dennis Ross, the U.S. general coordinator of the peace process. The Syrian foreign minister said he hopes progress will be made, noting that this depends on Israel's seriousness and the Syrian-proposed peace requirements.

Editorial Praises Clinton's Stance on Jerusalem

NC0711201994 Cairo AL-AHRAM AL-MASA'I in Arabic 29 Oct 94 p 2

[Editorial: "Usurped Jerusalem and the Arabs' Self-Confidence"]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] [passage omitted] The time has come for us to have self-confidence as Arabs and realize the vast amount of resources we have, both in quality and quantity. It is true that Arab solidarity is suffering from many problems and that the Arab nation appears to be disjointed and divided. But this is not true at all. Despite everything, the Arabs are keen to maintain the common denominators that bind them together as well as the minimum level of Arab solidarity on which the future is being built.

The Arabs are not a series of zeros making a total sum of one big zero, as was once said in the 1920s, but are an internationally respected effective force and enjoy respect and appreciation among nations.

It suffices here to refer to U.S. President Bill Clinton's desire not to anger the Arabs on a sensitive issue such as that of Jerusalem during his recent tour of the region. Despite the close ties between the United States and Israel, President Clinton canceled a visit he intended to make to Arab Jerusalem when he felt that the Israelis were seeking to manage it in a way that would allow them to exploit it politically.

The issue began when Clinton expressed a desire to visit Arab Jerusalem and insisted on this visit, despite the warnings he received about the dangers to his life and safety. The necessary preparations were in fact made for the visit to be made after midnight last Thursday night, when the city's streets would be empty and it would be easy to control them to protect the U.S. President. The arrangements were for President Clinton to make the visit without being accompanied by any Israelis, but Israel's leaders insisted on accompanying him, particularly Jerusalem's Likud mayor Ehud Olmert.

Clinton and his aides began to feel that his visit to Jerusalem would be politically exploited in a way that would imply a change in the old U.S. stance on Jerusalem, namely that Washington had abandoned its old stance and was now backing Israel's annexation of the Arab city after the 1967 war. Clinton felt that this situation would cause the eruption of a sensitive issue and would anger Arabs and Muslims. Therefore, he decided to cancel his visit to old Jerusalem and let his wife Hillary go there alone. This angered the Israelis.

The truth is that Clinton's stance shows an alertness on the part of the U.S. President and his aides and reveals respect for the Arabs and the desire not to anger them.

This is only one example that shows us the Arabs' status in the international community, despite all their problems, and confirms that they are an effective number in the international formula that cannot be ignored.

But it remains for the Arabs to ascertain their self-confidence and continue their march and to believe that their rights will not be lost, as long as they are capable of creating their unity and solidarity and using this unity and solidarity to serve their causes as well as world security and peace.

Trade, Investment Accords Signed With Palestinians

NC0711163694 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1425 GMT 7 Nov 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Al-'Arish, 7 Nov (MENA)—'Abd-al-'Aziz al-Ghali, secretary general of the Chamber of Commerce in al-'Arish, said today that the chamber's delegation, which returned to al-'Arish yesterday, held successful talks with the Palestinian Chamber of Commerce in the Gaza Strip over the past few days.

He said that the Egyptian delegation members discussed several trade issues with their counterparts in the Palestinian Chamber of Commerce. Most importantly, he added, they discussed the marketing of Egyptian products that are in demand in Gaza, such as olives, reinforcement steel, and cement, as well as facilitating procedures for the Gazan traders to utilize ports, airports, and crossings on the Egyptian borders.

He said the talks between the two sides resulted in agreements on the exchange of data and trade expertise and on investments in tourism, agriculture, and construction.

Delegation Leaves for Multilateral Talks on Water

NC0611160894 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1425 GMT 6 Nov 94

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Cairo, 6 Nov (MENA)—Egypt's delegation to the Working Group on Water, originating in the multilateral talks for peace in the Middle East, left for Athens this afternoon.

The delegation is led by Deputy Irrigation Minister Mahmud Abu-Zayd, who stated before leaving that the negotiations will begin tomorrow, Monday, and continue for four days. He said the conferees will discuss an Australian project on artificial rain, a Hungarian project on reducing water loss from waterpipe networks, and a European Union project on training technicians in the area of water resources.

He said there is another project presented by Japan on water desalination plants in Gaza, Jordan, and Israel. [passage omitted]

UN To Provide 30 Tons of Aid to Flood Victims

NC0711163594 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1415 GMT 7 Nov 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 7 Nov (MENA)—The United Nations has decided to provide 30 tons of urgent humanitarian aid for the people affected by floods that swept Upper Egypt last week.

Announcing this, Hidayat 'Abd-al-Nabi, UN information official in Cairo and the Gulf, said a Belgian Air Force C-130 plane is due to arrive in Cairo after tomorrow, Wednesday, carrying 15 tons of equipment, tents, blankets, and kitchen utensils as a first consignment.

She added that the same plane will return to Cairo on Thursday carrying another 15 tons of the same equipment, all of which will be donated by the UN Humanitarian Affairs Department in Italy. Italy will bear the cost of freight because the stores are in its territory.

Meanwhile, the UN specialized agencies operating in Egypt will meet tomorrow morning, Tuesday, to coordinate ways to send aid to the Egyptian Government to deal with the flood disaster damage in Upper Egypt. The meeting will be held at UNICEF headquarters.

A delegation representing all these agencies is scheduled to conduct an inspection tour of the disaster areas before the weekend.

Libya

CIA Said Planning al-Qadhdhafi Overthrow

NC0311211594 Beirut AL-DIYAR in Arabic 22 Oct 94 p 11

[Report from Paris by Badra Bakhus al-Faghehali]

[FBIS Translated Text] According to Arab political sources, the Central Intelligence Agency, "CIA," has drawn up a military plan to overthrow the Libyan regime before the end of 1994.

The plan, which has been shown to several Western and regional capitals and has not met with any opposition, calls for turning over power to 'Abd-al-Salam Jallud, particularly as he has good relations with leading Libyan opposition figures residing abroad. The oppositionists have not been able to agree among themselves on naming a single leader abroad who could take over if al-Qadhdhafi is toppled.

According to the sources, Jallud reached an agreement with the Americans to hand over the two suspects in the Lockerbie case, conduct wide-ranging administrative reforms in the country, establish democracy, and return all opposition figures to Libya. He also promised to hand over all wanted Libyans to international judicial powers and deliver the dossiers about the Libyan regime's links with the world's "terrorist" groups.

Al-Qadhdhafi recently kept Jallud away from the center of power for a while and then restored him to prominence shortly after the 1 September celebrations to refute reports that he had been placed under house arrest.

Al-Qadhdhafi Poses Conditions for Peace Involvement

TA0411121294 Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew 4 Nov 94 pp 1, 2

[Report by Moti Bassok]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Libyan President Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi told Turkish Prime Minister Tansu Ciller, who visited Libya three days ago, that he is willing to get involved in the Middle East peace process under certain conditions. According to Ciller, who is currently visiting Israel, al-Qadhdhafi posed tough conditions, including the lifting of the Western boycott on Libya. [passage omitted]

Embassy Denies Contact Between Tripoli, Tel Aviv

LD0611124794 Tehran IRNA in English 1115 GMT 6 Nov 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, Nov. 6 IRNA—The Libyan Embassy here on Sunday [6 November] catagorically denied reports by certain media on Libya's contacts with the Zionist regime, calling the reports as "fabrications".

A source at the Libyan Embassy quoted Libyan Ambassador to Iran Mahdi Ambirash, as calling the reports as 'baseless rumours'.

Certain foreign mass media, partcularly those of the Zionist regime, have recently claimed that Turkish Prime Minister Ms. Tansu Ciller had carried a message from Libyan Leader Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi to Zionist officials calling for establishment of some sort of relations between Tripoli and Tel Aviv.

Al-Qadhdhafi, Mubarak Hold Telephone Conversation

LD0211215894 Tripoli Libyan Television Network in Arabic 1900 GMT 2 Nov 94

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] A telephone conversation took place today between the brother leader of the revolution and President Husni Mubarak of the Arab Republic of Egypt. During the call they exchanged views on a number of international and regional issues.

The brother leader of the revolution also expressed his sympathy for the victims of the torrential rain floods and fires suffered by a number of Egyptian cities this morning. [passage omitted]

The Libyan Relief National Committee has immediately offered assistance to the Egyptian brothers to relieve the sufferings of the victims. It has decided to send a delegation consisting of a number of its members, as well as doctors to review the situation and provide the necessary help. It has also decided to donate the sum of 1 million dollars as a financial assistance to the victims' families.

Uganda's Museveni Holds Talks With al-Qadhdhafi

LD0411102894 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 0900 GMT 4 Nov 94

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Tripoli, 4 November—President Yoweri Museveni and the accompanying delegation have arrived in Tripoli tonight [as heard] on a visit to the Great Jamahiriyah. [passage omitted] Accompanying the president is the 2nd deputy prime minister and foreign minister [Paul Kawanga Ssemogerere].

In a statement to JANA correspondent, President Yoweri Museveni said: I am happy to visit the Great Jamahiriyah in order to meet my brother Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi to discuss the numerous issues of mutual interest to our countries.

Joint Press Release Issued

LD0511134694 Tripoli Great Jamahiriyah Radio Network in Arabic 1230 GMT 5 Nov 94

["Text" of press release issued at the end of the visit by President Yoweri Museveni of Uganda on 5 November]

[FBIS Translated Text] Within the framework of bolstering the fraternal relations between the Socialist People's Arab Libyan Great Jamahiriyah [SPLAGJ] and the Republic of Uganda, His Excellency President Yoweri Museveni, president of the Republic of Uganda paid a working and fraternal visit to the SPLAGJ between 3-5 November 1994.

Brother Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, leader of the great Fatih revolution, met the guest and held an extensive session of talks on the two countries' relations in the political, economic, regional, African, and international topics.

The two sides expressed their grave concern over the situation in a number of the continent's regions and reiterated the need for finding African solutions to the continent's problems without foreign interference.

The Ugandan president reiterated the Republic of Uganda's solidarity with the Great Jamahiriyah in the face of the unjust measures against the Libyan Arab in the Great Jamahiriyah. He expressed his support for the OAU's efforts and the resolutions aimed at finding a fair solution and ending those measures whose effects might touch the continent's peoples.

At the end of the visit, the Ugandan president expressed his gratitude to the brother leader of the revolution and to the Libyan Arab people for their warm hospitality.

Reagan's Illness Indicative of U.S. Administration

LD0711145994 Tripoli JANA in English 1428 GMT 7 Nov 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Washington 7 Nov (JANA)—The former American President Ronald Reagan has admitted that he has contracted the serious Alzhemier's disease, one of the most serious diseases which results in brain damage and loss of memory.

This admission came in a statement published on Saturday [5 November] in Washington.

The medical statement confirmed that Reagan is suffering from the stage of brain damage which is incurable and which leads to suicide or death.

It is known that a number of medical, surgical operations were performed on the former American President to remove malignant growth due to the spread of cancer in his body.

If that is the case which will be the fate of those who assume the American (?presidency) then we hope that the American administration is not in its turn suffering from such serious diseases and his hiding it until it is too late.

The leader of the revolution [Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi] confirmed in one of the massive popular celebrations on the 17th anniversary of the great al-Fatih international revolution that Reagan was either mad and crazy mentally and psychologically. The leader said I am doubtful if Reagan was enjoying his mental capacity because he is doing things that shock the whole world.

The leader also added if the American people followed the movement of the aircraft carriers and American fleets, then they will be shocked because a crazy man is issuing orders for their movements.

Statement Deplores Killing of Children in Algeria

LD0711183694 Tripoli Great Jamahiriyah Radio Network in Arabic 1600 GMT 7 Nov 94

[FBIS Translated Text] The Higher Committee on Childhood in the Great Jamahiriyah has released the following press statement on the killing of a number of children in Algeria:

The Higher Committee on Childhood in the Great Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah was alarmed by news of the death of a number of children and the injury of several others in sisterly Algeria and it felt deep sorrow and pain from a purely humanitarian point of view. The children were hurt in a treacherous bomb attack last Wednesday while the Arab people in the sister country were busy celebrating the start of the revolution of one million martyrs.

As a result, the Higher Committee on Childhood announces the suspension of the opening days of its major exhibition devoted to children's books. It also announces the cancellation of the ceremony which was due to take place on the closing day of the aforementioned exhibition. Several local, Arab and world publishing and printing companies and other organizations, including UNICEF, are taking part in this exhibition.

The Higher Childhood Committee hopes that everybody will appreciate its feelings which dictated this fraternal and humanitarian stand toward innocent children, wherever they may be. The committee also stresses the need to spare children the violence of the conflicts and to stop using them as targets. It also expresses its sympathy with the families of the innocent victims.

Mauritania

Sudan, FIS Said 'Secretly Funding' Extremism

AB0711121794 Paris AFP in French 0946 GMT 7 Nov 94

[By "special correspondent" Bernard Degioanni]

[FBIS Translated Text] Nouakchott, 7 Nov (AFP)—Mauritania has accused Sudan and the banned Algerian Islamic Salvation Front [FIS] of masterminding rising Islamic fundamentalism in the country by "secretly funding secret Islamic organizations" whose aim is "to topple" President Maaouya Ould Sid Ahmed Taya's government. "They were about to strike. For the past year there has been a guerrilla training program in progress, and the maintenance of relations with Islamic fundamentalist groups—including the FIS—based in Europe, Tunisia, and Sudan," Mauritania's Rachid Ould Saleh, minister of the interior, post, and telecommunications told AFP.

"The 60 Mauritanian Islamic leaders arrested at the end of September, who were later pardoned, were infiltrated by the aides of Sudanese Islamic leader Hassan al-Turabi," Mr. Saleh explained. "Their plan was to physically liquidate cabinet ministers. We have documentary evidence," he added.

The opposition Union of Democratic Forces [UFD] and the Union for Democracy and Progress [UDP] challenge that version of events, and accuse the government of having "completely made up" the story that Islamic fundamentalism had taken root in Mauritania. "The government casually embarked on a prefabricated affair. It cannot produce the least bit of evidence," UFD Chairman Ahmed Ould Daddah told AFP, condemning what he called "arbitrary arrests and searches."

The government wanted to get into the good graces of the Europeans by giving the impression that it is fighting against an upsurge of Islamic fundamentalism. In Mauritania, however, Islam cannot in any way be violent because it is everyone's religion, a state religion opposed by no one," UDP Spokesman Mohamedou Ould Babah told AFP.

The UFD and UDP leaders were surprised that people who were accused of wanting to overthrow the regime were pardoned even before their trial. "President Taya, who is known for his propensity to torture opponents, does not usually give us such gifts," according to some UDP members. The Mauritanian minister of religious affairs had declared that: "The decision to release the arrested persons was made after their confessions (....) The presidential pardon is in line with the magnanimity taught by Islam (....), and is aimed at preserving social peace."

In their public confessions on television after their arrest, which they now deny, the Islamic leaders said they were members of the "Organization of the Jihad in Mauritania" and the "Organization of Muslims of Mauritania," unknown until then, who were "prepared to resort to the physical liquidation of leaders to overthrow President Taya." They also had acknowledged that Islamic fundamentalism had taken root in Mauritania through the infiltration of nongovernmental organizations [NGO's], with funds coming in from Kuwait, Saudi Arabia, and a London-based businessman.

Charity NGO's in Mauritania—which number over 200—carry on major social programs targeting the underprivileged living in shanty towns around the capital, Nouakchott, where millions of unemployed youth are left unto themselves. "NGO's implement normal programs and take care of the poor, whom the state refuses to take care of," the UDP spokesman stated. "Only Taya's immoral regime, which acts in utter disregard for the law, can push people to extremism," the UFD leader asserted.

Sudan

Al-Bashir on Iraqi 'Jihad,' U.S. 'Imperialism'

JN0711191994 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1345 GMT 7 Nov 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Khartoum, 7 Nov (INA)—Sudanese President Lieutenant General 'Umar Hasan Ahmad al-Bashir has said that Sudan stands against any foreign interference in the Arab region and the use of force to resolve problems among the Arab states.

In an interview with an INA correspondent in Khartoum, Lt. Gen al-Bashir said that the presence of foreign forces on Arab soil will reflect negatively on the Arab nation's political, security, and economic situation, just like what is taking place now.

He said that the continuation of the unjust blockade on Iraq, along with the continued deterioration of the Arab situation, is a loss for all Arabs without exception.

The Sudanese president added: The blockade clamped on Iraq was not lifted despite the fact that Iraq has complied with the resolutions of the UN Security Council and despite the fact that these resolutions are harsh and bitter. The reason behind this is that the Zionist-U.S. plan has not yet been completed; namely, the plan of capitulation that is aimed at silencing and aborting any opposition in the region.

Lt. Gen. 'Umar Hasan al-Bashir pointed out that U.S. imperialism and Zionism decided that Iraq had exceeded the red lines they had drawn—through its acquisition of scientific, military, and economic capabilities—and consequently, they considered this a clear threat to the Zionist-U.S. plan in the region. He added that this is the reason behind the treacherous 30-state aggression, and the subsequent unjust blockade clamped on the lofty and steadfast Iraqi people.

The Sudanese president added that U.S. imperialism and Zionism will not tolerate any Arab state's acquisition of scientific, military, or economic capabilities or power in the region, nor will they accept any Arab state's call for Arab unity.

He said that U.S. imperialism and Zionism believe that the Iraqi people have perpetrated the crime of exceeding all red lines, of being a people who believe in unity and sincerely and seriously work to achieve it, and of acquiring scientific, military, and economic capabilities that pose a threat to the imperialist plan in the region.

The Sudanese president described the so-called Gulf crisis as a pretext fabricated by world Zionism and U.S. imperialism to strike at Iraq, to undermine its national and pan-Arab role, to abort its unionist and development plan, and to destroy its military force by carrying out a fierce aggression against it and imposing a mean and cowardly blockade on its people without any legal, moral, or logical justifications.

Lt. Gen. 'Umar Hasan Ahmad al-Bashir hailed the steadfastness, sacrifices, and jihad of the Iraqi people and leadership, saying that this steadfastness and these sacrifices have instilled fear in the advocates of the new Zionist plan and those who work for them.

The Sudanese president expressed greetings to President Saddam Husayn, his admiration of the Iraqi people's steadfastness, and his hope that Iraq, its people and leadership, will overcome the ordeal of the unjust blockade imposed on them.

He praised Iraq's genuine pan-Arab stands, particularly its recent initiative announcing its readiness to recognize Kuwait's sovereignty. He described this initiative as a gesture of good will that foiled all the pretexts used as a cover by the Western states, which are hostile to Iraq and the Arab nation, to carry out their evil and aggressive plans to maintain the unjust blockade on the Iraqi people and to carry out new aggressions against it.

Lt. Gen. al-Bashir called on the Gulf rulers to respond to the Iraqi initiative, which is based on genuine Arab principles and concern for the Arab nation's future and security. He urged them to contribute to the success of this initiative, which he said represents the nation's salvation and unity.

Lt. Gen. 'Umar al-Bashir touched on the issue of Iraqi POW's held in Iran since 1980. He said: Sudan has always worked to resolve the problems related to the POW's between Iraq and Iran and to remove differences between them.

Answering a question by the INA correspondent on the hostile U.S. stands vis-a-vis the Sudanese people, al-Bashir said: Manifestations of this U.S. hostility toward Sudan have appeared in many areas. The United States has supported the attempt to condemn Sudan by international quarters and to accuse it of violating human rights. It has also continued to issue hostile statements on various occasions, fabricate lies, attack Sudan, and interfere in its internal affairs.

Al-Bashir noted that the United States has also adopted a hostile stand hostile toward Sudan at the IMF, exerted pressure on various financial establishments to stop financing any development projects or investments in Sudan, and prevented American companies from participating in Sudanese economic projects.

Al-Bashir said that, within the framework of its hostile stands, America placed Sudan on the list of countries sponsoring terrorism so as to harm it and tarnish its image and real reputation abroad. Furthermore, he added, various American legislative and executive institutions have issued a series of threats to Sudan, declared a siege on its people, and deprived it of oil and weapons. The Sudanese president said that these hostile American stands vis-a-vis Sudan have encouraged the rebellious movement in the south and encouraged its intransigent stands and refusal to hold talks with the Sudanese Government in the future.

Asked about the Sudanese presidential elections to be held next year, the Sudanese president said: The government is working seriously with all its departments to reach a sound formula in order to hold the presidential elections next year in accordance with the plan prepared by the government so as to achieve Sudan's security and national unity.

The Sudanese president dealt with the economic situation in Sudan, reaffirming that many of Sudan's internal and external problems have constituted a challenge to the national salvation revolution, which was able to confront the challenge despite the living conditions of the Sudanese people. He added that the national salvation revolution was also able to minimize many of these problems, to attain economic achievements, and to launch the development process, which was expected to take place many years ago, relying on our own potential and not relying on external aid.

Al-Bashir said that the most important achievement of the revolution was the revival of the potential of the Sudanese citizens, who moved from the state of frustration imposed on him in the past to the state of accomplishing what he believed to be impossible. He noted that before the National Salvation Front took power, Sudan used to rely on relief aid and assistance for food. Meanwhile, thanks to the new independent policy, Sudan now speaks about a surplus of food and about exporting its food products, particularly sugar and grain.

Al-Bashir affirmed that the rate of inflation in the country has begun to decrease. During the last three months, inflation decreased from 130 percent to 88 percent. This is considered a positive sign of the government's seriousness in reducing inflation to 55 percent or less by the end of this year.

Second Gulf Conference on Water Begins

LD0511194094 Riyadh SPA in English 1253 GMT 5 Nov 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Manama, Nov 5, SPA—Bahraini Minister of Works, Electricity and Water Majid Jawad al-Jishi inaugurated here today the second Gulf conference on water, organized by the Society of Water Sciences and Technology in Bahrain.

Addressing the inaugural session of the conference, al-Jishi said the convening of the conference reflects the growing attention being given to water in the region. He said member states of the Gulf Cooperation Council [GCC] and other countries in the region face water problems as a result of scarcity of natural resources, pollution and non-rationalization of consumption as well as the increasing area of desertification.

The governments of the GCC states have realized that the problem of water scarcity will not be overcome only through setting up of new water desalination centers or decreasing of the cultivated land, but that should be followed by rationalization of consumption, he elaborated.

Seventy scientific papers are before the conference, which is held under the motto of 'towards an integrated management of water in the Gulf.'

GCC Defense Ministers To Meet in Riyadh 12 Nov

LD0611164594 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1230 GMT 6 Nov 94

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Riyadh, 6 Nov—Defense ministers of the Gulf Cooperation Council [GCC] states will meet here next Saturday to discuss coordination and cooperation among their countries. Official sources here told the Kuwaiti News Agency that during their one-day meeting the ministers will discuss the unification of command and control systems, monitoring networks, and radar reconnaissance which will link all the GCC states. The sources said that the ministers will also discuss the ideas submitted for the development of the Peninsula Shield forces in which the GCC states participate. [passage omitted]

Kuwait

Adviser Warns of U.S.-Iran 'Confrontation'

NC0711134194 Paris AFP in English 1309 GMT 7 Nov 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Kuwait City, Nov 7 (AFP)—A Kuwaiti parliament adviser warned Monday [7 November] against a possible military confrontation between Iran and the United States in the Gulf, and urged Kuwaiti authorities not to get involved.

The US and its Western allies "seem to be programming events to lead to confrontation points, most notably with Iran," said 'Abdallah al-Nafisi, quoted by AL-WATAN newspaper here.

Al-Nafisi was speaking at a al-diwaniyah, an informal gathering, where hundreds of Kuwaitis met to discuss the future of the Gulf in the light of recent developments.

Thousands of US troops were deployed in the Gulf last month, especially in Kuwait, after reports of Iraqi troop movements near its border with the emirate.

Al-Nafisi, who advises parliament on foreign policy matters, said the US deployment was much larger than a straightforward deterrent against possible Iraqi aggression.

He warned that a US-Iran showdown would be "more severe" than the January-February 1991 Gulf War when a US-led coalition ousted Iraqi troops from Kuwait.

"The Iranian regime, unlike the Iraqi one, is supported by a huge majority of its people. Confrontation with Iran means a confrontation with the Iranian people," he said.

Al-Nafisi added that "we, as Kuwaitis, have an interest in rejecting the American provocation against Iran."

The adviser also called on religious leaders in Kuwait to call for the continuation of the Arab boycott of Israel through the country's mosques.

Israel, which hopes to launch official ties with Gulf Arab states, "is now getting into artificial relations with the states of the region through which it will control waters and wealth in the name of a peaceful solution," he said.

Kuwait was one of six Gulf Cooperation Council states which decided to ease the economic boycott of Israel on September 30.

Minister Says No Political Prisoners in Jails

LD0611101494 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 0805 GMT 6 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Kuwait, 6 Nov (KUNA)—The Kuwaiti Interior Minister Shaykh 'Ali al-Sabah has reiterated that there are no political prisoners in Kuwait and that human rights international organizations had offices inside the country's prisons to monitor this.

He added that the Beduns [people without nationlity] were not Kuwaitis; they had origins and they used foreign passports to enter the country. We are currently trying to study their situation seriously, and we are going to tell them in due course about documents that we have about them in order to protect their legal positions and living conditions, he reiterated.

Shaykh 'Ali was talking in an open news conference, which was organized last night by the Kuwaiti Journalists Association. [passage omitted]

Shaykh 'Ali said: "There is no longer a single detention center in the country; all human right organizations are aware of this."

He reiterated that in this respect, Kuwait was a country where the rule of the law is supreme and freedoms were protected except when they are in conflict with the law and the security of the state. [passage omitted].

Saudi Arabia

King Fahd Chairs Weekly Cabinet Session

LD0711201494 Riyadh SPA in English 1949 GMT 7 Nov 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Riyadh, Nov 7, SPA—Custodian of the two holy mosques, King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz presided over the weekly regular session held by the council of ministers at al-Yamamah Palace here this afternoon.

Information minister, 'Ali Bin-Hasan al-Sha'ir told the Saudi Press Agency (SPA) after the meeting that at the outset of the session King Fahd briefed the council on the latest Arab and international developments and gave a detailed analysis on these matters.

King Fahd also briefed the cabinet on his meeting yesterday with the crown prince of Japan, Prince Naruhito and Princess Masako and highlighted the deep understanding shown by the senior guest on various issues. He also made the council acquainted with the contents of a message from Shaykh Jabir al-Sabah, the emir of Kuwait which was conveyed by the second deputy premier and finance minister Nasir al-Rawdan and, in this context, King Fahd praised the deep- rooted and fraternal relations between the two countries.

Afterwards, al-Sha'ir added, King Fahd reviewed with the cabinet a number of domestic issues including education programs. King Fahd renewed his wise directives to the ministers of education and higher education to pay special concern on all education curriculum and develop them to the highest possible level whereby a student of elementary and intermediate school could collect adequate information about geographical, demographic and administrative aspects of the kingdom including the latest administrative and regions systems along with agricultural and trade informations.

King Fahd also emphasized the necessity for better selection of teachers of all education phases and called on the concerned bodies to accelerate efforts for completion of a study on this subject and submit findings for implementation.

King Fahd briefed the cabinet on his views about the performance of the local media and urged the minister of information to unfold efforts for promotion of the performance of the Saudi media.

Referring to the domestic issues reviewed by the cabinet in today's session, al-Sha'ir said the council has issued a resolution whereby the owners of buses who were working in public transportation before the issuance of this resolution were allowed to continue their work provided that the buses are registered on their names and they should drive themselves. The Ministry of Interior and the Ministry of Communication will issue rules to regulare the matter and no new licenses would be issued.

The council referred a number of items to the general committee for further studying.

Information Minister on New Islamic TV Channel

LD0611175894 Riyadh Saudi Arabian Kingdom Radio Network in Arabic 1430 GMT 6 Nov 94

[FBIS Translated Text] In reply to some inquiries received by the Information Ministry regarding the date of the commencement of the Islamic satellite television transmission on which the instructions of the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques had previously been issued, Information Minister 'Ali Hasan al-Sha'ir said: On the basis of his continued interest in making the Islamic faith and teachings accessible to all the Islamic peoples in the world, King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz Al Sa'ud, the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques, instructed us to consider the setting up of a satellite channel concerned with Islamic affairs.

In implementation of the noble instructions, the Information Ministry submitted a study prepared on the subject to the Council of Ministers, and after it was discussed the king ordered for a committee to be set up, composed of all the ministries and departments of scientific, administrative, and financial relevance.

The representatives of those bodies held regular meetings to complete all the special studies required for the setting up of the Islamic satellite channel. We are now about to submit our conclusions, reached through the committee, to the king.

An announcement will be made regarding the inauguration of the channel once the final picture is completed.

Mitsubishi Signs Construction Contract in Tabuk

LD0711230694 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 2200 GMT 7 Nov 94

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Tabuk, 7 Nov—Prince Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-Aziz Al Sa'ud, governor of Tabuk region and honorary chairman of the board of directors of Tabuk cement company, this evening signed a contract to implement a project of Tabuk cement factory and two stations, one for electricity and another for water with the Japanese companies "Mitsubishi" and "UBE Industries Ltd." worth $257 million and to be implemented over 29 months. [passage omitted]

United Arab Emirates

Cooperation Continues With Iran on Security

MM0811124794 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 5 Nov 94 pp1, 4

[Report by Taj-al-Din 'Abd-al-Haqq: "UAE-Iranian Cooperation Despite Dispute Over Islands"]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Abu-Dhabi—The currently intesifying dispute between the United Arab Emirates [UAE] and Iran over the three islands occupied by Iran has not prevented security cooperation between the two countries in tackling the smuggling problem, from which Iran suffers, and the infiltration problem which annoys the UAE.

The Iranian security authorities have informed the UAE authorities concerned that they have changed the form of the identification cards issued to Iranian sailors working on ships and small boats which carry passengers and goods from Iranian ports to UAE ports and vice versa.

According to UAE security sources, the Iranian security measure will help considerably in closing a gap in the wall of moves taken by the UAE against infiltrators who are mostly Iranians.

The sources add that, in many of the infiltration cases, Iranian sailors forged identity cards for infiltrators, presenting them as sailors working on boats, and that enabled them to remain in the UAE illegally after entering. [passage omitted]

The UAE security sources say that the number of Iranians arrested annually on infiltration charges ranges from 400 to 600, most of whom enter through the eastern areas and coasts of the country including the areas of al-Fujayrah, Ra's al-Khaymah, and some other areas in the Emirate of Sharjah. [passage omitted]

Editorial: Regional Development After Settlement

JN0411124494 Dubayy AL-BAYAN in Arabic 1 Nov 94 p 1

[Editorial: "Two Observations on the Casablanca Conference"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Sources close to certain Arab delegations attending the Middle East and North Africa Casablanca conference have stated that the projects slated to be debated and endorsed by the Casablanca conference are worth $20 billion. This is a huge amount, bound to entice the wealthy Arab and non-Arab businessmen attending the conference, as well as the official delegations.

Nonetheless, there are two relevant observations that have to be noted in this regard:

First, Israel has been deemed a basic party to the larger part of these projects in terms of financing, operation, production, and management. This is hard to conceive of before a final and comprehensive settlement of the Arab-Israeli conflict is achieved. By settlement, we mean not only an accomplishment on the Syrian track of negotiations—the settlement we have in mind must also address the issues of Jerusalem and refugees. More importantly, the Israeli nuclear blackmail arsenal must be destroyed.

Second, in their conference speeches, Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin and U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher underscored the importance of the complete revocation of the Arab boycott on Israel as a prelude to considering these multibillion-dollar projects. Such a demand is impossible to meet before just and comprehensive peace is achieved in the region.

It is worth noting that the Gulf Cooperation Council members' foreign ministers' decision to revoke the secondary and tertiary aspects of the Israel boycott is not applicable to the primary boycott. This means that the main boycott regime is still in force.

The key is that they are demanding the complete revocation of the boycott, despite the fact that the peace process has continued to stumble due to Israeli intransigence. This intransigence could harden if the Arab boycott of Israel is revoked in its entirety. In the same vein, this intransigence could erode if the boycott is maintained.

The argument that rewarding Israel may entice it to soften its stand is utterly wrong. By contrast, making the revocation of the entire boycott regime contingent upon Israel's subscribing to international legitimacy and meeting the requirements of peace is the only proper thing to do in this regard. This course would remove the last impediment standing in the way of the desired settlement. Once this is achieved, then the path of limitless development for all can be walked.

Yemen

New Prime Minister Calls Economic Concerns Priority

MM0711115894 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 5 Nov 94 pp 1, 4

[Report by Faysal Makram: "We Will Not Remove Subsidy on Basic Commodities"]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] London—Yemeni Prime Minister 'Abd-al-'Aziz 'Abd-al-Ghani said yesterday that the appointment of governors, deputy ministers, and ambassadors will not be completed until his new government obtains the House of Representatives' confidence.

He confirmed that his government will move to Aden to perform its duties before the end of the year. He pointed out that his government does not plan to remove the government subsidy on basic commodities in the short term.

This came in a telephone statement with the new Yemeni prime minister, whom AL-HAYAH contacted from London. He said, "The [General] People's Congress and the [Yemeni] Reform Grouping, partners of the ruling coalition, have completed their dialogue as regards completing the appointment of governors, deputy ministers, and diplomatic corps officials. Decisions on these appointments will not be made until the new government obtains the House of Representatives' (parliament) confidence."

'Abd-al-Ghani expects his "new government to obtain the parliament's confidence next Tuesday or Wednesday. Especially as the government's program is aimed at rebuilding and reconstruction in the various domains. His government is committed to adopting parliament's recommendations or including them in the government's program, which is being debated by the House of Representatives in the presence of government representatives." [passage omitted]

The Yemeni prime minister pointed out in his statement that "the new government's first priorities include taking measures to return the deteriorating economic situation to its previous status and to surmount the problems relating to the position of the local currency, namely by fixing the price of the Yemeni riyal against foreign currencies, first and foremost the dollar. The government will take measures in this connection in both the short and long term." [passage omitted]

Concluding, 'Abd-al-Ghani said that "political conditions in the country are very normal under political pluralism and democratic practice in the country—which means there is political stability in the country, especially as large numbers of war refugees have returned to the country and the others will return soon."

War Refugees Return From United Arab Emirates

JN0611210894 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 2000 GMT 6 Nov 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Some 165 military men and civilians who were misled by the agent secessionist traitors returned to Sanaa from the fraternal United Arab Emirates this evening. They have thus benefited from the general amnesty law issued by brother President Lieutenant General 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih.

They were welcomed at Sanaa International Airport by a number of officials from the Defense Ministry and the General Staff Command.

In statements to the media, several misled returnees expressed satisfaction with, and pleasure at, returning home. They also voiced gratitude and appreciation for the national decision, represented by the general amnesty, which was made by the brother president and supreme commander of the Armed Forces. This decision gave them an opportunity to embrace the homeland's soil anew after they were misled by the agent secessionist traitors who pushed them to war which they imposed on the homeland and people.

The returnees also condemned and denounced the ill-fated secession decision declared by traitor al-Bid and his gang. They said this decision only expressed al-Bid's hostile and revengeful tendency against the homeland and people. This decision conflicts with the aspirations of our people and their Armed Forces, who offered numerous sacrifices in order to reestablish the homeland's unity, they added.

The returnees said they will meet the expectations of the homeland, people, and leader by adhering to unity and defending it to the best of their ability. They also stressed that they will only be loyal to God, the homeland, the revolution, and unity.

'Aziz: 'No Bilateral Conflict' With Israel

BR0711125494 Paris LE MONDE DIPLOMATIQUE in French Nov 94 p 11

[Article by Eric Rouleau: "The Iraqi People Are the Main Victims of the American Order"]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] [passage omitted] U.S. fears that Baghdad will sabotage the Near East peace process are strange in view of the fact that it was after Washington's intervention that Israel recently had to abandon the idea of pursuing secret talks started in recent months with semi-official Iraqi envoys. The State Department must be aware of the fact that this is not the first time that Baghdad has sought a basis for agreement with the Israeli Government. In 1988 General Avraham Tamir, director general of the Foreign Affairs Ministry, had several meetings with Iraqi Foreign Minister Tariq 'Aziz and his deputy Sa'dun Hammadi.

The Iraqi position has changed considerably since then. Questioned on the meaning of the silence observed by his government with regard to the peace process, Tariq 'Aziz told us: "We think that we should not interfere in an issue in which we have not been involved. There is no bilateral conflict between us and Israel. In view of the fact that our Arab brothers have decided to settle their disputes with Israel by negotiation, Iraq no longer regards itself as a 'confrontation state.'"

At the beginning of October, Washington threatened to resort to its veto to prevent the Security Council envisaging a partial lifting of the embargo, even after a probationary period of six months which Russia and France, among others, advocated. And yet, there was only a tiny risk, because Moscow and Paris were determined to fall into line to prevent a confrontation with the United States. Baghdad's insignificant military maneuvers not far from the Kuwaiti border extricated all the protagonists from an embarrassing situation. While the lifting of the embargo was once again indefinitely postponed, the resolution adopted on 15 October restricting Iraqi troop movements in the south of the country gives the U.S. forces the possibility of making a military intervention in Iraq. At least this is the interpretation made by Washington, which has finally defined its true position with brutal frankness: The oil embargo will not be lifted as long as Saddam Husayn remains in power.

Has Washington decided to bring about Saddam Husayn's fall? To replace him with whom and at what price? Even members of the opposition abroad fear the bloodbath which would precede the establishment of another dictatorship enjoying the support of the United States and its Arab allies in the Gulf. The latter would certainly prefer the Ba'thist regime to a democracy which would destabilize the region.

Whatever happens, the plans being drawn up in the chancelleries, and the speculations and calculations being made, ignore the fate of all the components of the Iraqi people—Kurds or Arabs, Sunnis, Shi'ites, or Christians—whose growing distress heralds a humanitarian disaster. When the time comes, will it be said that it was impossible to predict?

Official Explains 'Aziz Remarks

JN0811065094 Baghdad INA in Arabic 2150 GMT 7 Nov 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Amman, 7 Nov (INA)—'Adil Ibrahim, press counsellor at the Iraqi Embassy in Jordan, has stated that media and political circles have once again started to express hope that Iraq has adopted a new stand toward Israel.

'Adil Ibrahim told correspondents of Arab and foreign news agencies and newspapers that news agencies and papers and some officials are distorting a statement made by Iraqi Deputy Prime Minister Tariq 'Aziz to the French LE MONDE DIPLOMATIQUE and are interpreting it in accordance with their whims and in a manner that serves their interests.

He added: Iraq's stand on Israel is clear and unambiguous. It is that the conflict with Israel and Zionism is not an Iraqi-Israeli, or an Iraqi-Zionist conflict but an Arab-Israeli and an Arab-Zionist conflict, and that the common objective of the United States and Israel is to have a divided and politically, militarily, and economically weak Arab homeland. He explained that the United States and Israel resort to all means and options to achieve these objectives.

'Adil Ibrahim said that Iraq does not have a cause that calls for negotiations with the Israelis and that Iraq participated in the wars against the Zionist entity not in defense of Iraqi land but in defense of the Arabs and their lands and in response to the calls by the Arabs, particularly Egypt, Jordan, and Syria.

'Adil Ibrahim emphasized that the objective of involving Iraq in the settlement issue or what accompanies it is to defame Iraq's well-known pan-Arab stand and to justify the stands of others.

UN Ambassador Criticizes Iran's 6 Nov Attack

JN0811105894 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1025 GMT 8 Nov 94

[FBIS Translated Text] New York, 8 Nov (INA)—Iraq has stressed that it reserves its legitimate right to self-defense by using appropriate means in the face of Iran's military aggression against Iraqi territory on 6 November.

In a letter to UN Secretary General Butrus Butrus-Ghali, Ambassador Nizar Hamdun, Iraq's permanent representative to the United Nations, said that firing three surface-to-surface Scud missiles from the Iranian region of Naft Khaneh on Iraqi territory is a blatant violation of Iraq's sovereignty and territorial integrity, as well as a serious violation of the cease-fire terms of UN Security Council Resolution 598 and the UN Charter.

Ambassador Nizar Hamdun said it is clear that the Iranian Government has on more than one occasion taken advantage of the blockade imposed on Iraq to commit aggression against it. This calls for a serious search for the appropriate means to enable Iraq to defend itself.

Ambassador Hamdun said the Security Council resolutions that imposed the blockade against Iraq stress that the United Nations and its member states should respect Iraq's sovereignty and independence.

He said the three missiles fired by the Iranian Armed Forces some 80 km into Iraqi territory caused human and material losses.

Iraq's permanent representative asked that the letter be circulated as a Security Council document.

Kuwaiti Exiles Leave for al-Basrah Camp

JN0611115994 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1030 GMT 6 Nov 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Al-Nasiriyah, southern Iraq, 6 Nov (INA)—A new batch of Kuwaiti exiles residing in the Governorate of Dhi Qar today headed for the camp set up by the People With Rights south of the al-Basrah Governorate. In a statement to the Iraqi News Agency, Shaykh Nayif al-Ghanim, official spokesman for the League of People With Rights, said that the campers will continue to live in the camp to demand the restoration of their rights, and make their voices heard by all international human rights organizations and bodies. Al-Ghanim asserted that the league's main objective is to ensure the repatriation of the Kuwaiti expellees and the release of the prisoners and detainees held in Kuwaiti jails and to obtain reparations for the losses they have sustained.

Paper Notes Increase in Russian Military Experts

JN0711153594 Paris AL-WATAN AL-'ARABI in Arabic 4 Nov 94 p 9

[FBIS Translated Text] Western reports have revealed that Iraq has succeeded in violating the international arms embargo and that it has concluded deals to receive Russian weapons, including modernized missile systems and various military spare parts and equipment. These reports discarded the idea that Baghdad concluded these deals through the Russian black market and mafia alone, noting the possible return of military cooperation between Russia and Iraq through undeclared official means. Other information confirmed this, noting an increase in the number of Russian military experts working in Baghdad, who could not have come to Iraq by means of individual contracts. Several Western security organizations are paying special attention to the activities of these Russians and to the role Moscow could play in rebuilding the Iraqi Armed Forces and military arsenal despite the embargo.

Fighting Erupts Between Rival Kurds in North

NC0511100294 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0925 GMT 5 Nov 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Baghdad, 5 Nov (MENA)—According to reports received from northern Iraq this morning, armed clashes erupted again recently between rival Kurdish parties in that region following a three-month lull. The reports said that fighting with small- and medium-caliber weapons has broken out in the Irbil and al-Sulaymaniyah areas in the past few days. The fighting has been between armed followers of Mas'ud Barzani, leader of the Kurdistan Democratic Party, assisted by gunmen of the pro-Iranian Islamic Movement, and the followers of Jalal Talabani's Patriotic Union of Kurdistan.

Iranian Team Visits Kurdistan, Meets Officials

NC0711193594 (Clandestine) Voice of the People of Kurdistan in Arabic 1600 GMT 7 Nov 94

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] An official delegation from the Islamic Republic of Iran has visited Kurdistan. During the visit, the delegation members visited the Kurdistan parliament and the council of ministers. The delegation was received by the Kurdistan prime minister, the parliament speaker, and a number of government officials. The delegation held separate meetings with parliament and cabinet members. The meetings dealt with ways of strengthening relations between Kurdistan and the Islamic Republic of Iran. Our correspondent reports:

At 1000 yesterday Jawhar Namiq Salim, speaker of the Kurdistan parliament, received an official delegation from the Islamic Republic of Iran. The delegation included Ashtari, the political aide to the Western Azerbaijan governorate and head of the delegation, and representatives of the Interior Ministry in the three governorates of Western Azerbaijan, Kordestan, and Kermanshah. During the one-hour meeting, Ashteri expressed his pleasure at visiting the first parliament elected by the Kurdish people. He said: We came to Kurdistan to acquaint ourselves with the problems of the Kurdish people. We wish that our relations will develop further to safeguard our friendship and goodneighborly ties. Afterwards, the Kurdish deputy prime minister explained the obstacles and problems facing the ministries. Ashteri pledged that the Islamic Republic of Iran, which is a friend and neighbor of the Kurdish people, will offer aid regularly. He expressed Iran's readiness to study the problems and hurdles obstructing the work of the Kurdish ministries and offer any possible aid. [passage omitted]

Kurdistan Prime Minister Kawthar Rasul 'Ali received the Iranian delegation at 1100 yesterday. The deputy prime minister and other ministers also attended the meeting. 'Ali explained ways of strengthening bilateral relations in all fields.

PUK Head Visits Islamic Movement, Communists

NC0711193294 (Clandestine) Voice of the People of Kurdistan in Arabic 1600 GMT 7 Nov 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Brother Jalal Talabani, Patriotic Union of Kurdistan [PUK] secretary general, and 'Umar 'Abdallah, PUK Political Bureau member, visited the Islamic Movement headquarters in al-Sulaymaniyah at 1000 yesterday. They were received by Shaykh Muhammad al-Barzanji, member of the Islamic Movement Political Bureau, and a number of the movement members in al-Sulaymaniyah. During a short meeting, they discussed ways of strengthening the bonds of brotherhood and amity and consolidating peace in Kurdistan.

At 1100 yesterday, Talabani visited the Kurdish Communist Party Committee headquarters of the Karkuk governorate. During the meeting, they discussed the fraternal relations between the PUK and the Kurdistan Communist Party and reviewed relations among the Kurdish parties in general.

Barzani Party, SAIRI Continue Talks

JN0611194094 (Clandestine) Voice of Iraqi Kurdistan in Arabic 1600 GMT 6 Nov 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Bilateral meetings are continuing between the political bureau of our party [Mas'ud Barzani's Kurdistan Democratic Party] and the Supreme Assembly of the Islamic Revolution in Iraq [SAIRI]. In today's meeting, which was held at the political bureau headquarters in Salah-al-Din, the two sides extensively discussed conditions in Iraq and ways to stregthen the joint struggle of the two sides and the tasks that lie before the unified Iraqi National Congress. The talks were characterized by fraternal spirit and a high sense of national responsibility.

Taking part on the SAIRI side were: Shaykh Abu-Ibrahim al-Shaykh Husayn, al-Hajj 'Abd-al-Razzaq Salim, Mr. Abu-Hashim, and brother Haydar Ja'far. It was attended on our party's side by Sami 'Abd-al-Rahman, Azad al-Barwari, and brother Falak al-Din Kakai.

Industry Minister Praises Jordan's Economic Role

JN0611144294 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1200 GMT 6 Nov 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Baghdad, 6 Nov (INA)—Staff General Husayn Kamil Hasan, minister of industry and minerals, today received Muhammad al-Simadi, under secretary of the Jordanian Ministry of Industry and Trade. The two sides reviewed Iraqi-Jordanian relations, as well as both countries' potential to invest their material and human resources and promote fruitful cooperation between the two fraternal countries in economic and industrial areas. The minister of industry and minerals praised fraternal Jordan's positive role and its determination to strengthen brotherly relations by carrying out joint projects based on the potentials of both fraternal countries.

Spanish Industrial Representatives Visit

JN0611150194 Baghdad AL-THAWRAH in Arabic 30 Oct 94 p 4

[FBIS Translated Text] Yesterday, Dr. Ahmad Murtada Ahmad, minister of transportation and communication, met with a delegation representing a group of Spanish industrial firms, led by Guantalo Orgeti [name as transliterated], general manager of EURABIA, a Spanish industrial engineering consultancy firm.

During the meeting, the minister reviewed the process of building and reconstruction being witnessed by Iraq in all fields, especially in the transportation and communication sector, despite continuation of the unfair blockade on the Iraqi people. He affirmed the ministry's readiness to cooperate with Spanish firms in the field of water and land transportation, as well as railroads and telecommunication.

The Spanish delegation expressed its admiration of the Iraqi people's achievement in reconstructing, in record time, the damage caused by the evil aggressors, proving the Iraqi people's ability and vitality.

The meeting was attended by several directors general from the Ministry of Transportation and Communication.

Report on Foreign Participation in Baghdad Fair

JN0711133094 Baghdad INA in English 1020 GMT 7 Nov 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Baghdad, Nov. 7, INA—During the first seven days of the Baghdad International Fair (BIF) which was opened on November 1, thousands of people visited the trade fair according to figures released by the fair's management.

1994 BIF hosts six Arab countries namely Jordan, Yemen, Morocco, Tunisia, Algeria and Mauritania and a number of foreign firms from Russia, Brazil, Austria, Bulgaria, Spain, Italy and others.

Representative of the Bulgarian-Iraqi Consortium Ltd., Velko Velkov describe the participation of the Bulgarian firms in 1994's fair as a move towards resuming trade relations with Iraq.

He added that some of the firms are participating for the first time in the fair motivated by a desire to establish relations with Iraq.

Mr Velkov described Bulgarian firms' participation as a chance and opportunity to exhibit their products and show their potentials. "As soon as the economic embargo is lifted, which we expected very soon, the Bulgarian firms will pump into Iraqi market new and large variety of goods, commodities and services," Mr Velkov said.

According to Mr Velkov, the difficulty of transporting goods and commodities to Iraq caused by air embargo has denied a large number of the Bulgarian firms the chance to participate in the fair. "When the embargo is lifted, Bulgarian pavilion will occupy an area of some 300-400 square metre with the participation of more than 300 Bulgarian firms," Mr Velkov told THE BAGHDAD OBSERVER.

Mr Velkov described as a long-standing and strong the Bulgarian-Iraqi trade relations which cover all the commercial and industrial sectors, expressing hope for an early resumption of relations with Iraq.

Among Bulgarian firms which are participating in the 1994's BIF is Elprom Export-Import which is a large-scale exporter of electrical equipment and devices with a wide application in power engineering industry automation, construction, agriculture, and other fields including hydrogenerators, power and distribution transformers, high voltage and low voltage switchgears, medium voltage metal clad switchgears, signal and three phase electric motors, low voltage equipment and starters and generators for car and trucks.

Bulgartabac, the leading exporters of Bulgarian tobaccos, well-known for their specific natural aroma, is also taking part in the fair. Bulgartabac is a big manufacturer and exporter of cigarettes. The production includes the famous Bulgarian cigarettes of all blends as well as customers' tailored ones.

Bulgartabac disposes of big facilities for production of printing materials, filter rods and spare for the equipment in the cigarettes manufacturing and tobacco processing. The company offers engineering and agricultural services in the tobacco growing and the tobacco industry.

Among other firms are ABM Koulishev specialised in manufacturing and trading with medicinal supplies, DZU Stock Company specialised in manufacturing and trading with medicinal supplies, DZU Stock Company specialised in research, design and manufacture in the field of disc and optical drive memories and systems, special technological equipment and consumer goods, local trade and export, BBB specialised in production and export of natural fruit juices after the standards teterbrik and combibloc [names of standards as received] and ZMM Sliven Ltd. manufacturer of universal lathes, CNC lathes and wood working machines.

Among other firms participating in the fair is the Spanish. According to Mr Aziz Rifat, director general of Malaga-based Cape Vermey A. Invest S.L. the Spanish firms are looking forward for lifting the economic embargo, saying that a number of Spanish firms have come to offer deals to Iraq.

Mr Aziz described the participation of the Spanish firms as a chance to establish relations between Iraqi traders and businessmen and Spanish industrialists.

Saddam Orders Distribution of Pumps to Farmers

JN0611152094 Baghdad AL-THAWRAH in Arabic 28 Oct 94 p 4

[FBIS Translated Text] Basra—Leader President Saddam Husayn, may God preserve and protect him, has ordered the distribution of 2,069 agricultural water pumps to peasants and farmers in the Governorate of al-Basrah. Latif Mahal Humud, governor of al-Basrah and chairman of the Agricultural Committee in the governorate, said the first batch of 919 pumps have been distributed among the people of the marshes who live on the al-'Izz River in al-Basrah, and 800 pumps have been distributed to farmers of the Saddamiyat al-Qurnah and al-Madinah Districts. He said the second batch will be distributed to Shatt al-'Arab, Abu al-Khasib, and al-Faw District orchard planters for the success of agricultural operations.

Increases Cotton Prices

JN0711200894 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 1900 GMT 7 Nov 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Pursuant to directives from leader President Saddam Husayn, it has been decided to amend the prices for buying cotton from farmers and peasants. In accordance with the new amendment, the purchasing price per one tonne of premium cotton has been increased from 30,000 dinars to 85,000 dinars, and the price of one tonne of first-grade cotton has been increased from 27,000 to 80,000 dinars, and second-grade cotton from 22,000 to 75,000 dinars. This new amendment of prices has been introduced to support the [word indistinct] farmers and peasants of this vital and important crop, and as a step toward expanding its plantation in the service of our national economy [words indistinct] leader President Saddam Husayn's special care for the agricultural sector.

Construction Progresses on Canal Projects

JN0611144994 Baghdad AL-THAWRAH in Arabic 28 Oct 94 p 4

[FBIS Translated Text] Military Industrialization Organization teams in al-Faw and al-Jihad State Enterprises have completed 90 percent of the excavation work in the project linking the al-Ishaqi canals with the Saddam River, as well as 25 percent of the concrete construction work, bringing the average execution percentage up to 50 percent.

Making this announcement to AL-THAWRAH, project Manager Engineer Sa'd 'Abd-al-Hadi said: Al-Faw and al-Jihad enterprises have been entrusted with implementing the al-Ishaqi canals project, which involves modifying and developing the western canal and several sub-canals of up to 18 kilometers in length and digging a new 20-kilometer canal. This is in addition to 56 square meters of concrete construction. The excavation work has reached an advanced stage, thanks to everyone's concerted efforts to complete the project before the end of this year, in half the time set for it.

In the al-Riyad sector, which has been assigned to the al-Faw State Enterprise, project manager Engineer Nabil Sadiq Dawud said: Our work sector, which extends from Kilometer 18.5 to Kilometer 25.5, involves excavation work, of which 90 percent has been accomplished. It also involves building suction pumps, culverts, a pumping station, and drainpipes, of which 60 percent has been accomplished.

Engineer Husayn Muhammad 'Abbad, director of the al-Ishaqi bridges from the Roads, Bridges, and Airports Department of the al-Jihad State Enterprise, said: Our work sector involves building four culverts, five pedestrian bridges, and seven car bridges which are 40-50 meters long and 15 meters wide. This work is using 10,000 cubic meters of concrete; 3,000 cubic meters of gravel are used for filtration. The culverts have been 100 percent completed. Work is continuing to complete the other parts of the project, which we hope to finish before the deadline.

Heavy Equipment Built for Furfural Production

JN0611150694 Baghdad AL-QADISIYAH in Arabic 30 Oct 94 p 2

[FBIS Translated Text] Military Industrialization Organization [MIO] teams in the State Enterprise for Heavy Engineering Equipment have, for the first time in the country, built all the machines and equipment required for the project to produce furfural, a substance which has several industrial uses.

Engineer 'Abd-al-Rahman al-Gharawi, assistant director general of the al-Qadisiyah Establishment, explained that all these machines, which involve complex and very precise high technology work, were designed, built, and operated with the expertise of the MIO teams. He said the teams built high distillation towers made of noncorrosive metal, heat exchangers, and chemical reactors.

Engineer al-Gharawi said if we had imported the machines and equipment made by the MIO teams, it would have cost us tens of millions in hard currency. He said making these machines and equipment with Iraqi capabilities opens wide vistas for the heavy engineering equipment industry in Iraq and the entire region, since it is known internationally that such an industry is monopolized by only a few companies.

Engineer al-Gharawi added that furfural is an important chemical-industrial substance and a basic component in the production of automobile oil and various other industrial products.

Higher Prices for Fruit, Vegetables Reported

JN0711152994 Baghdad AL-JUMHURIYAH in Arabic 1 Nov 94 p 4

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Baghdad—Many citizens in Baghdad and the other governorates have complained about the widespread phenomenon of soaring prices of fruit and vegetables on the local market amid an "evident absence of monitoring agencies." This has made the prices of many locally-produced crops unstable and out of control.

Charges have been exchanged and views have differed between wholesalers and retailers as they explained the reasons for the skyrocketing prices. An AL-JUMHURIYAH correspondent has toured the wholesale markets of Jamilah, al-Dawrah, al-Kazimiyah, and al-A'zamiyyah. He held several interviews. 'Ata Hadi al-Juburi, the owner of Office 49, blamed retailers for the skyrocketing prices of fruit and vegetables. [passage omitted]

Hajj Ibrahim al-Dulaymi, the owner of Office 42, says that "brokers" and "intruders" contribute to the incredibly high prices of fruit and vegetables. He expressed astonishment at those who add 50 dinars to the price of each 1 kg of every crop, using unacceptable justifications. [passage omitted]

Paper Warns Against Illegal 'Usury' Schemes

JN0211115594 Baghdad BABIL in Arabic 23 Oct 94 p 12

["Above the Red Line" column by Muhammad Khudayyiur Hamid: "Advice to State Organs and Citizens"]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] In the cauldron of the present economic situation and high inflation, illegal activities have emerged, exploiting the shortage of consumer goods, the increase in prices, and the high cost of living to deceive people with little experience and to seize their personal savings by different methods of temptation and fraud; methods which are ostensibly legal, but are in fact a violation of the provisions of the law and the rules of morality and religion.

One of these activities, which has adversely affected the national economy by monopolizing commodities, increasing prices, and putting pressure on the Baghdad Stock Exchange, is undertaken by certain individuals and companies who, in order to seize the citizens' personal savings, offer tempting, imaginary dividends that range up to 160 percent annually.

We cannot possibly remain silent on or ignore the harm resulting from this phenomenon for economic, legal, and humanitarian reasons. From the economic viewpoint, these swindlers are speculating with the money of their victims. They use this money, which they have obtained with such ease, to buy out basic consumer goods and then monopolize them by charging more than double the prices. By this insatiable greed, they cover what they can of the imaginary high dividend they offer and at the same time prolong this fraudulent game by trapping more victims.

This type of activity has introduced another class of middlemen who also increase prices by adding their profit margin. This class must be uprooted.

From the legal viewpoint, this game involves a loan transaction which is banned under the Iraqi law. The law calls for the punishment of those engaging in it, including the victims themselves. [passage omitted]

The harm caused by the aforementioned act of usury is felt not only from economic and legal, but also religious and humanitarian aspects. God allows fair trade but bans usury. The usury by these swindlers is bound to lead to human disasters, because many families have sold their possessions, properties, and homes and turned them into cash in order to ensure a source of income. It will not be long before they wake up from their delusion and face the disaster of bankruptcy.

The aforementioned facts force the state and its organs to face reality. The lessons of past experiences should prompt the state to forestall economic disasters before they occur and worsen. This is also a warning to all citizens against being tempted by short-lived attractive fraudulent acts, which are bound to result in financial disasters sooner or later.

This is our sincere advice to both the state and the citizens. After that, every one is free to follow his own course. However, we will meet again on the day of reckoning when the crisis blows up. It will then become clear who of us saw the light and who strayed in the dark.

Further on Commercial Trends

JN0511214594 Baghdad BABIL in Arabic 31 Oct 94 p 2

[Article by Mazhar 'Arif: "Al-Rayyan in Baghdad"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The past few years have witnessed the widespread phenomenon manifested by a group of individuals collecting people's money at an interest rate which very often is higher than that given by banks themselves. These individuals developed their businesses into commercial corporations under different names.

In view of the difficult economic situation experienced by the citizens as a result of the criminal economic embargo on our people and homeland, and the financial attractions offered by these capitalists, who seem to have created their wealth from speculating with dollars—before the leader president assumed the post of prime minister—and also from selling vehicles and real estate, a number of citizens got involved in that game. Matters reached the point where citizens sold their possessions to deal with these individuals, who give citizens the ridiculous impression that they were associated with this or that authority or official. We are not revealing any secret when we say that thousands of citizens have been ruined as a result of the fraudulent acts carried out by these individuals. The law has punished some of these impostors, but others have escaped justice.

The establishment of shareholding companies and the Baghdad Stock Exchange Market was an economic measure intended to stimulate commercial and financial life and to reduce inflation as much as possible. The emergence of these capitalists has disrupted share transactions and paralyzed the market. Lack of experience and the absence of an efficient management have also led to the market's failure. The banks and money exchange bureaus have not fared any better with citizens switching their dealings to the magical forces, whose business style conflicts with the most fundamental economic concepts and state laws, especially those which fix interest rate on savings and deposits at 10-15 percent. It is said that the interest paid to the citizens by the new capitalists, who have come out of the unknown and become big trade names in less than three years, goes up to 50, 70, and even 120 percent.

In the midst of this chaos, there are always intermediaries who pay an interest rate which is lower than that offered by the financial godfather, who bars anyone from seeing him except for the lucky few who manage to reach his financial kingdom and actually meet him personally. The losers are always those who missed the first class carriages on the new capitalist train. Once the disaster occurs, those who were first to register with the offices of these capitalists will be luckier than others in this game of Russian roulette, or something close to it in objective and result, especially since the law governing the interest game is not documented by checks, IOU's, or receipts for the sums deposited. Loss is always possible, since life is not based on profit alone. No one knows, not even among the most optimistic and those who relish their profits, when the day will come when he will have to face up to the popular saying: God be with you as you fall into the abyss.

However, the majority do not doubt that such a day will come. Still, people have not stopped participating in charity funds which were set up for the sake of patriotism to help citizens cope with the blockade and life. The substance and nature of the capitalist funds have made people forget their original purpose. The experience of al-Rayyan Company in Egypt and the disasters that befell the citizens who dreamed of paradise on earth are still vivid in our minds. The same can be said about those individuals who escaped with people's money and those who fell into the grip of justice in our country. I have nothing more to say except to describe the situation by citing a story about Juha [a comical character in Arabic classics] and his neighbor. Juha once borrowed a cooking pot from his neighbor. The following day he gave his neighbor a smaller cooking pot, saying his first pot gave birth to the smaller one. The neighbor was pleased. A few days later, the neighbor asked for his first pot, but Juha told him that it had died. How can a pot die, asked the neighbor? Juha replied: Why did you believe me when I said it gave birth and you do not when I say it died? He then threw him out.

Paper Says Democracy Saddam's 'Constant Aim'

JN0511205794 Baghdad BABIL in Arabic 29 Oct 94 p 2

[Article by 'Abd-al-Jabbar Muhsin: "They Talk About Pluralism"]

[FBIS Translated Text] U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher has chided Arab governments for simply denouncing the activities of Islamic organizations, since denunciation, no mattter how strong, is not sufficient.

According to Christopher's orders, these governments should ban all activities by Islamic organizations, especially Hamas [Islamic Resistence Movement], and stop their citizens and welfare societies from making donations to these organizations and publicizing their activities.

For its part, the United States will pass the necessary laws to prevent U.S. citizens of Arab origin or who are Muslims as well as their sympathizers from making donations to Islamic organizations, especially Hamas.

Why? Because the Zionist government is furious that many people in the Arab world and the United States are sympathetic with the Palestinian struggle. For Hamas to raise slogans calling for the release of thousands of political prisoners detained by the Zionist entity's authorities is something which does not even deserve discussion. Zionism has every right to thrust tens of thousands into prisons, but the whole of mankind has no right to donate a small sum of money for the Palestinian struggle.

So, where is pluralism, O Clinton administration? Where is it, your majesties, excellencies, and highnesses the kings, presidents, and amirs of the Arabs? Why is Hamas and the other political organizations and parties, which are backed by the masses, not allowed to function within the context of pluralism and are prevented even from breathing?

The answer is very simple. The parties sponsored by U.S. democracy and pluralism are simply those which play the role of the guest of honor, who when present are not consulted and when absent are not missed. It is their job to polish the image of some regimes and nothing more. It is they who are opposition in name but loyalist in reality. At best, they are reserves on a waiting list for the time when this or that regime has served its purpose. They do not differ from the regime in ideology or program.

To those who have "criticized us" because we do not believe in pluralism, we say: We could have made of the masses and the elite rallying around the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party and the revolution scores, if not hundreds, of political parties. But we did not—and we will not—do that because we do not want to deceive the people. Neither democracy nor pluralism are magic wands or Ali Baba's cap, making things disappear.

We understand democracy as a method of government which makes every stand and decision reflect the will of the people. We cannot imagine the existence of true democracy through an election alone, which can only mean seasonal presence of the will of voters. True democracy is continuous communication between the leader and the people through a number of methods and institutions which begins with parliament, passes through popular organizations, manifests itself in open and continuous dialogue between the leadership and the people, and is affirmed by the interaction between the party, whose roots are extended everywhere, and the citizens who rally around the party.

According to our humble understanding, pluralism means permitting the existence of parties which have an effective presence in social life. Even if these parties differ with the leading party in thier program and ideology, there should always be one common factor; namely, faith in the nation and the people, defense of freedom and sovereignty, and absence of any link between any party and a foreign quarter, otherwise such a party will be no more than an organization for foreign intelligence.

Someone may ask: When will the next step begin in the course of democratic development in Iraq?

The answer is: The so-called advocates of democracy among the imperialists and Zionists have also sought by their aggression to stop the wheel of democratic development in Iraq.

Their aggressive war, unfair blockade, interference in the northern part of the homeland, and ceaseless plotting have delayed the application of the new constitution and the parties and press laws. Once the oppressive anomalous situation is removed, we will not need anyone to remind us of democracy and pluralism and we will not need anyone to urge us, because democracy is a basic element in Ba'thist ideology and a constant aim sought by our leader Saddam Husayn. Now, however, I do not believe that the citizens of any of the countries which the West has applauded recently are exercising their right of freedom of expression and decisionmaking the way our citizens are doing in Iraq.

Aspiring for the best does not detract from the present. It is just that our revolution under the leadership of Saddam Husayn always wants the best for its people.

Assembly Endorses Bill on Private Guards

JN0611132694 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 1130 GMT 6 Nov 94

[FBIS Translated Text] The National Assembly today held its second meeting of its fall session under Deputy Speaker Ghanim 'Aziz Khadduri. After debating the Private Guards Bill, the assembly members endorsed it. It is to be recalled that this bill authorizes the Ministry of Interior to appoint private guards and affiliates them with the heads of administrative units in subdistricts and districts. They shall work under the supervision of governors. For this purpose, the assembly hosted Muhammad al-Hadithi, counselor at the Interior Ministry; Nur al-Halfi, head of the Legal Department at the Ministry of Finance; and chairmen of the assembly's competent committees to debate the technical aspects of the bill.

Al-Sahhaf Protests U.S. 'Spy Plane' Flights

JN0811102794 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0940 GMT 8 Nov 94

[FBIS Translated Text] New York, 8 Nov (INA)—Iraq has informed the UN General Secretariat about the U.S. spy plane U-2's violations of Iraqi airspace under the pretext of conducting aerial surveys for the UN Special Commission.

In a letter to UN Secretary General Butrus Butrus-Ghali, Foreign Minister Muhammad Sa'id al-Sahhaf said this plane violated Iraqi airspace three times in October, overflying large areas of Iraq.

He added that the plane came from its base in Saudi Arabia and returned to the same base after accomplishing its mission. He said that those three violations increased the total number of violations by this plane to 227.

He added: While condemning and deploring these unjustified violations of our airspace, we reiterate Iraq's position that this plane is being used for purposes other than those specified by the Security Council and that its activity prejudices Iraq's security and sovereignty.

Al-Sahhaf went on to say: We also reiterate Iraq's demand that the Special Commission use Iraqi planes in its activities instead of foreign planes for purposes related to Iraq's security and sovereignty.

The foreign minister addressed the UN secretary general: You have correctly assessed the nature and true mission of this plane in THE NEW YORK TIMES on 19 November, 1993, when you said: "I do not want a James Bond plane for spying in the United Nations." This assessment requires that the United Nations immediately reconsider the use of this plane to violate Iraqi airspace, contrary to the purposes and principles of the UN Charter, which stipulate respect for the sovereignty of all member states.

King Husayn To Visit Following Border Opening

TA0811122994 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1200 GMT 8 Nov 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Jordan's King Husayn will visit Bet Gavri'el on the Lake Tiberias shores on 10 November. This was reported by our correspondent in the north Yo'av Aviv, who learned that the royal visit will be held shortly after the inauguration of the Jordan River border crossing in the Bet She'an Valley. Our correspondent notes that, apparently, Prime Minister Rabin will accompany the king on his tour of the Tzemah Beach.

Jordanian Tourism Minister Muhammad al-'Adwan told our correspondent 'Ofra Nehmad that Israeli and Jordanian tourists will be able to cross over to Jordan and Israel respectively starting the beginning of next week. The Israeli and Jordanian tourism ministers held a joint news conference in Lisbon and presented joint tour plans to U.S. travel agents at a tourism conference in Portugal.

Peres on Syrian Talks, 'Arafat Meeting

TA0711201594 Jerusalem Israel Television Channel 1 Network in Hebrew 1800 GMT 7 Nov 94

[Interview with Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres by correspondent Hayim Yavin in the Tel Aviv studio—live]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Yavin] The high-level meeting held at the Prime Minister's Bureau this evening has just ended. It was held in preparation for the Rabin-'Arafat meeting at the Erez checkpoint tomorrow, when the two will discuss the issues of early empowerment in the West Bank and the elections. Another issue that will be raised there will be the status of Orient House in East Jerusalem. Foreign Minister Peres, who attended the meeting that just ended, came to our studio. Good evening, Sir.

[Peres] Good evening.

[Yavin] What will Rabin tell 'Arafat tomorrow about the Orient House affair?

[Peres] I do not know that we have anything particular to say. I am not certain that 'Arafat will raise it. The status of Orient House is clear and explicitly stated. It is a house in Jerusalem, and as such it is open to any visitor. It will not be a political center for the management of the territories or the conduct of the Gaza and Jericho agreement. It has no political status; it has a status of a house in Jerusalem.

[Yavin] Are there disagreements between you and the prime minister on the Orient House affair?

[Peres] I do not think so. I believe that we see eye to eye on this matter. We wish to make it clear that the affairs of the territories will not be managed from Jerusalem because Jerusalem is not part of the territories. At the same time, we are in favor of observing every civilian right and providing everything that civilian life requires in Jerusalem, just as it was before the Gaza and Jericho agreement.

[Yavin] On the one hand, Israel protests, but, on the other hand, it allows some activity in the Orient House, for example the visits there by the Turkish prime minister and the visit today of Simone Veil. Do you believe that conducting restricted political activity from Orient House should be permitted?

[Peres] I do not know what you mean by restricted political activity. There are two administrations today: the Israeli Government, which has a comprehensive political and security responsibility that applies to all of the territories as well, and the Palestinian Authority. There is no third authority. Jerusalem is under the exclusive rule of the Israeli Government.

[Yavin] And still, Simone Veil was allowed to visit the place today and meet Faysal al-Husayni.

[Peres] What is wrong with that. She may visit dozens of houses and dozens of centers in Jerusalem, and we will not consider it harmful.

[Yavin] Do you view such meetings positively?

[Peres] I regard such meetings as most normal, and I see no reason to be upset.

[Yavin] I would like to address the Syrian issue now. Syria speaks of the possible resumption of the Washington talks. What would be the level of the talks, if and when they resume? Has anything been decided on a level of foreign ministers, perhaps?

[Peres] No. So far the Syrians have refused to upgrade the level of the talks, which I believe is a mistake. I believe that by that they are slowing down the pace of negotiations. After all, there are ideas that can only be born on the political level. The executive level, that is, the diplomatic level, which is very respectable, must follow instructions. If we want to start something new or something that has not existed until now, we must work on the political level.

[Yavin] What about the content of the talks? What will they deal with? After all, Clinton had quite a disappointing visit here and not much has moved. Will we once again talk about terror or normalization?

[Peres] We must discuss all the issues on the agenda. We cannot isolate one issue, saying that it takes precedence over the others and that Israel must first present its stand regarding the one issue chosen by President al-Asad, for example. This is inconceivable. There is a series of linked issues each of which affects the others. As is well known, the issues are security, peace, withdrawal, and the implementation of the agreement. As far as we are concerned, these are open negotiations, and today there is a certain distance between the opening stands of Israel and Syria. The purpose of the negotiations is to find the common ground on these issues. It is not possible to say, as the Syrians do: First, you must announce that you are pulling out of the entire Golan Heights and that you are removing all the settlements, and then we will talk about other things. Who could accept such negotiations?

[Yavin] I would like to return to the Rabin-'Arafat meeting tomorrow. There is a serious delay in the implementation of the current stage of the Oslo agreement—the withdrawal from the urban centers and the elections. What is Rabin expected to tell 'Arafat on these issues, and what will he hear from him?

[Peres] Several general issues should be made clear. The agreement we made with Jordan does not come at the expense of the Palestinians. It is not meant to put down the Palestinians. We treat the Palestinian issue with the utmost seriousness, just as we have when we made the agreement with them. We have to clarify this very well, because attempts are being made to portray us as not caring about what happens in Gaza. We care very much. We very much want life in Gaza to run smoothly. We want the economic situation there to improve. We want the Palestinians to receive the money they were promised, and we want them to establish the appropriate apparatus.

Second, we agreed to the elections, and we have no intentions of going back on this. Disagreements exist on several issues regarding the elections—which is only natural—and we will also try to settle them. The meeting tomorrow will be a dialogue, not a clash. We will in no way follow the easy slogans alleging that we made an agreement and forgot about it. We remember it well, and we will honor it.

Reservists Persuaded Not To Storm Orient House

TA0611093394 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0600 GMT 6 Nov 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Tzomet Knesset Member Moshe Peled says that right-wing figures yesterday managed to persuade a group of right-wing reserve officers to refrain from storming Orient House. MK Peled told our correspondent in the Knesset Hayim Hecht that the right-wing figures yesterday discussed the repercussions of the incident in which Palestinians prevented Israeli security men and journalists from entering Orient House during the visit of Prime Minister Ciller.

Shahal, al-Husayni Comment on Orient House Status

TA0711124594 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1200 GMT 7 Nov 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Police Minister Moshe Shahal says that the people who run Orient House are motivated by a desire to stage provocative acts, but their actions will hurt their own interests and operations. The Israel Police has secret plans on ways to foil unauthorized visits to Orient House, he says. The police minister told our correspondent Aviv Bushinsky that the Israel Police and the state's legal and other authorities will react to any attempt to create a parallel political authority in East Jerusalem. Minister Shahal said French Minister Simone Veil's visit to Orient House had been approved by the government.

Faysal al-Husayni says Yasir 'Arafat will raise the issue of Orient House activities at tomorrow's meeting with Prime Minister Rabin. Al-Husayni told our correspondent Yoni Ben-Menahem that Orient House activities are anchored in a letter Israel gave the Palestinians in Oslo, which calls for bolstering Palestinian institutions in East Jerusalem. Al-Husayni says Orient House serves as an umbrella under which the Palestinians conduct their political activity with regard to bilateral and multilateral negotiations on the interim and permanent arrangements.

Study Shows No Fatah Attacks Since Cairo Agreement

TA0611155994 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1500 GMT 6 Nov 94

[FBIS Translated Text] A drastic drop has been registered in Fatah's terrorist activities since the signing of the Cairo agreement. This emerges from a study conducted by the Peace Watch organization six months after the signing. Our correspondent Yoni Ben-Menahem reports that the study shows that in the past half year Fatah was not involved even in one of the lethal terrorist attacks in which 41 Israeli civilians and soldiers were killed in the territories and within the boundaries of the Green Line.

Rabin Urges International Investments in Region

TA0611102694 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 0500 GMT 6 Nov 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The first official delegation from Tunisia to Israel is attending the Jerusalem Business Conference which opened last night. Prime Minister Rabin, in his address to the 2,500 delegates from all over the world, called for international investment in Israel and its Arab neighbors. He said such investment would be a tremendous contribution to peace and stability in the region:

[Begin Rabin recording] The developments in the peace process, the developments involving Israel's economy, and the better understanding that has been reached between the Arab countries and Arab peoples and Israel will no doubt provide better opportunities not just for Israeli economic development, but also for the beginning of cooperation between us and the Palestinians, between us and Egypt, between us and Jordan, and between us and the Arabian peninsula countries, Tunisia, Morocco, and hopefully Algeria too.

There is no doubt that it will give the multinational companies, the Americans, the Europeans, and others more confidence to invest in this region, because as this region becomes safer there will be more opportunities for communication with, cooperation among, and transportation within the various parts of the Middle East of a sort that did not exist in the past. There is no doubt in my mind that there can be the kind of cooperation between Israel and the Arab countries in tourism, agriculture, and many fields of industries that can be implemented quite soon and quite quickly. [end recording]

Draft Bill on Implementing Oslo Accord Approved

TA0711172094 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1500 GMT 7 Nov 94

[Report by Knesset correspondent Hadar Vismonsky]

[FBIS Translated Text] The Knesset has approved the first reading of the draft bill enabling the implementation of the Gaza-Jericho agreement with 48 votes in favor, 40 against, and 2 abstentions. The bill consists of a series of legislative amendments on various issues that will enable the implementation of the agreement. The most significant is the amendment curtailing the PLO's activities outside the boundaries of the autonomy, namely, in East Jerusalem.

Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin explained that as long as legislation on the issue is not completed the government will not be able to prevent PLO activities in Orient House.

[Begin Rabin recording] We do not have the legal tools to do that, seeing that we do not yet have a majority in favor of the draft bill we submitted to the Knesset. One of the clauses of this bill would ban the activities of Palestinian Authority [PA] institutions in areas under Israel's rule and administration. Therefore, when the draft law is approved in its second and third readings we will be able to take action. The problem at the moment is not 'Arafat's but ours. [end recording]

When Rabin said he had no majority, he did not yet know that the coalition would ultimately overcome the obstacles and get the draft bill approved. He pointed out that the Austrian chancellor is due in Israel next week and from the legal point of view he cannot be banned from visiting the PA's Jerusalem branch.

The opposition voted against the draft law because it deals with the implementation of the Oslo agreement to which it objects. In a meeting prior to the vote, Likud leader Binyamin Netanyahu proposed that the prime minister support the Likud's draft bill to curtail the PLO activities—which will be put to a vote in two days—or that the government submit a separate draft bill on the issue.

[Begin Netanyahu recording] I told the prime minister that I do not think he needs a law. He can simply tell 'Arafat that there will be no progress in the negotiations if he does not close down the PLO offices in Jerusalem. If Israel's intention really is to uphold Jerusalem's unity, then let the government propose a separate law on the issue. [end recording]

The draft bill was approved despite the Likud's opposition. Ehud Olmert, the mayor of Jerusalem and a Likud Knesset member, voted in favor of the bill. The draft bill will now be prepared for its second and third readings.

Committee To Act Against East Jerusalem University

TA0811054694 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 0500 GMT 8 Nov 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The Ministerial Committee on Jerusalem has decided not only to act against Orient House but also against the new university the Palestinians have established in Jerusalem. The Palestinian Authority has combined four separate and independent colleges into what it calls al-Quds University. The move was carried out without the authorization of Israel's Council of Higher Education.

[Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew at 0500 GMT on 8 November adds that "the Palestinian Red Crescent is seeking to open an office in East Jerusalem, but the Israeli Government opposes such a move."]

Al-Majali Interview on Treaty, Jerusalem, Gulf Ties

MM0711161494 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 5 Nov 94 p3

[Interview with Prime Minister Dr. 'Abd-al-Salam al-Majali by Shihadah Abu-Baqar in Amman; date not given]

[FBIS Translated Excerpts] [Abu-Baqar] If you were an ordinary citizen with no official responsibilities, not prime minister, what would be your frank opinion of the [Jordanian-Israeli] treaty?

[Al-Majali] The treaty will go down in Jordanian and Middle Eastern history as being a result of long and strenuous efforts. [passage omitted] There were massive difficulties but when we managed to achieve our undiminished rights I really felt that the peace treaty was a document which made history and not a document that was just a part of history. Despite all that conflict in which we had been involved, the treaty did fully restore Jordan's rights. Of course, those who have something else in mind, namely the Palestinian issue which was the cause of the conflict in the region, want Jordan to achieve liberation of Palestine forgetting that for two decades or more, the Arabs, Palestinians, and Muslims insisted that the Palestinian issue must remain in the hands of the Palestinians, meaning the PLO. After some argument, we agreed, and we were the first to recognize the Palestinian state. The Palestinian brothers took their affairs into their own hands. We are not directly responsible for that. But that does not and will not prevent us in any way from standing by them for the liberation of their territory and the achievement of their objectives. In other words we do not shirk the responsibility of playing a part, but it should not be forgotten that we are not directly responsible. [passage omitted]

[Abu-Baqar] But what about the period after the signing of the peace treaty? How will the positive effects appear in people's lives? The people await positive results.

[Al-Majali] When we started the negotiations, only a few people were optimistic. I was optimistic that we would regain our rights, for the simple reason that my reading of the situation was a clear scientific reading. [passage omitted] We believe that the post-peace era may prove to be more serious than any post-war era because, as you suggested in your question, people's expectations are very high. That is why, in these circumstances, we have to consider how to fulfill people's aspirations.

First of all, there can be no permanent peace while the average annual per capita income in Jordan is about $1,200 whereas in the surrounding states it is dozens of times more than that. So there must be economic changes. People will discern such changes when their standards of living rise to acceptable levels. Of course, we cannot achieve that through distribution of money to the public but through investment projects here. [passage omitted] Now, after the signing of the treaty and with stability prevailing in our country, there will be major incentives for Jordanian, Arab, and friendly countries' investments here.

[Abu-Baqar] Those opposed to the peace treaty are getting emotional. Statements and speeches have been made. The government appears to be calm in the face of that. The opposition consists of Jordanian citizens who believe that they have a right to express their opposition as they please. What does the prime minister say to that?

[Al-Majali] If there was no opposition, it would be our duty to try and create one. The question here is: What is the definition of opposition? If the aim of the opposition is to destroy then we are against destruction, but if its aim is to show the other side of the picture to ensure that the picture is complete in the interest of the homeland, then such opposition should be supported and information should even be placed at its disposal so that it may act accordingly. [passage omitted]

One other point which should be remembered is that we in the government are not a party facing the opposition parties. We serve all parties. We did not join the government as a party but as independent individuals. [passage omitted]

[Abu-Baqar] Crown Prince Hasan's recent statements on Jerusalem and your statements two days ago on the same subject are seen as a climbdown from the known and declared Jordanian position on the subject. Is that the case, and if so, why?

[Al-Majali] First of all, on the question of Jerusalem, there has been no retreat from our position. It is a question of how one reads the situation. In a picture with many colors, one of the colors is black. If you only look at the black color, you would see a black picture. We have not changed. Our link with Jerusalem and the holy places has been fundamental. We cannot give them up to a vacuum. Before 1967, our responsibility in Jerusalem was a direct responsibility. After that, Israel agreed that we should have continued custodianship of the holy places. In 1968 the Palestinian brothers asked the same thing of us. In Oslo the Palestinian brothers and the Israelis agreed to discuss the question of Jerusalem in the final phase. As far as we are concerned, there was the Washington declaration and then the treaty. If we had not mentioned Jerusalem it would have looked as if we were dropping it or, in other words, abandoning our responsibility for it to a vacuum. We have said and will continue to say that the day the Palestinian brothers get the responsibility of sovereignty over Jerusalem as a part of the final solution, we will give it to them on a gold platter. We said that from the beginning. Thank God, this has been made clear and the brothers are well aware of it.

[Abu-Baqar] What about your relations with Syria and Lebanon who have expressed reservations regarding the Jordanian-Israeli peace treaty?

[Al-Majali] On the question of relations with the Syrian and Lebanese brothers, it is a matter of opinion on one particular point. We believe in a comprehensive solution, whether in the course of single tracks or in the course of collective Arab tracks. Everyone agrees that each track has its own special charcteristics. Even the pace on each track is different from the others. We, for instance, have more than once stopped moving forward in the negotiations to see what was happening on the other tracks, and we came under pressure but we could not leave the matter to the wind. We repeatedly called for coordination but the others did not coordinate with us. Of course, coordination does not mean that I should never move forward, especially if the wind is blowing in the direction of our rights. Now that we have got our rights, we are in a better position to help the others regain their rights. There is no conflict between us and the Syrian and Lebanese brothers. We stem from the same trunk, have the same objectives, and we belong to the same nation and the same league. Differences of opinion do not break backs. They exist even within the same cabinet, not to mention different governments. When matters become clear, we will see everything proceeding soundly. We maintain that peace cannot be permanent unless it is a comprehensive peace. Even the Jordanian-Israeli treaty does not constitute comprehensive peace. It is a part of peace and was concluded under circumstances beyond our control. We are "thirsty" and cannot remain so. This is an urgent matter. We have to resolve the water issue. This is sufficient to enable us to regain our water after many attempts.

[Abu-Baqar] What about Jordan's relations with the Gulf states? What is the state of these relations and what are your expectations?

[Al-Majali] We are continuously extending our hands to the brothers for the sake of all our futures. When we make up and become partners, we can determine our own fate and nobody can impose anything against our interests on us. I previously offered the idea of forgetting our differences or, in economic terms, "rescheduling" them for 10 years with a three-year grace period so that we can shake hands and reconcile and then, after that, open the file of our differences, because the circumstances are critical and call for reconciliation.

Thank God, we are getting a response. The brothers in Saudi Arabia, Qatar, and the United Arab Emirates [UAE] have been responsive. A few minutes ago I learned that the brothers in Saudi Arabia have accepted the appointment of our ambassador in Riyadh. That is good. Relations with the Kuwaiti brothers have become more friendly even at international meetings. That is a good clearing of the air we all want and seek.

[Abu-Baqar] The Jordanian monarch has fiercely criticized the media, the press, and columnists in Jordan recently. What does the prime minister have to say on that?

[Al-Majali] We have a press law. We hope that press discipline will not only be restricted to that law but also to a charter and a code of honor, and that the journalists realize that there are red lines which, if crossed, could harm the country, and green lines which, if adhered to, could benefit the country. Most regrettably, some brother journalists are overstepping the limit without realizing the harm done to the country.

The brother members of the Press Association came to me and I told them: You draft a code of honor and we will accept it. We cannot but refer the violators to justice. Sometimes they are convicted and sometimes they are not, but this is not the best way. What is required is that they should bear the country's interests in mind when they write. What King Husayn meant was that a writer should seek to serve the country's interests in what he writes.

[Abu-Baqar] The United States has promised Jordan military aid in addition to the financial aid. Has your army received any new military equipment from the United States?

[Al-Majali] As far as the military aid is concerned, it is on the way. As regards financial aid, that will take the form of writing off debts and a consideration of many projects either directly by the U.S. Government or through the international institutions concerned.

[Abu-Baqar] Amman recently witnessed two murders, of a female pharmacist and a male pharmacist, in less than a week. What is the latest on the investigations? Is there a political dimension to these two incidents? Do they, for instance, have anything to do with the peace treaty and opposition to it?

[Al-Majali] Why should pharmacists have a political dimension? I believe that there must be a study of the causes. The closest possibility to the truth is that the matter is linked to drugs or tranquilizers. We still have not received the study but, as a human being, I believe that it has something to do with drug addiction. It has no political dimension. Of course, someone who wants to oppose would or could link the two incidents to politics.

[Abu-Baqar] Did you discuss with Israel the question of naming the Jordanian ambassador to Israel and the Israeli ambassador to Jordan? The treaty speaks of diplomatic representation within a month after the signing.

[Al-Majali] We have not discussed the naming of ambassadors. None of that has happened so far, but once the treaty is approved by parliament and ratified by King Husayn, each state will select its ambassador, but that has not happened yet. [passage omitted]

[Abu-Baqar] Do you have any plans to visit any Arab countries in the near future?

[Al-Majali] Yes, I will visit one or more Arab Gulf states in the near future.

[Abu-Baqar] Do you intend to rehuffle your cabinet in the near future?

[Al-Majali] I am surprised that most people are talking about cabinet reshuffle. That is a very important topic but so long as the policy is the same, a reshuffle or cabinet changes are not always desirable but a reshuffle takes place when the circumstances call for it. [passage omitted]

Council Appoints Ambassador to Saudi Arabia

JN0811103694 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 1000 GMT 8 Nov 94

[FBIS Translated Text] The Council of Ministers has decided to appoint Hani Khalifah as ambassador of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan to the Government of King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz, custodian of the two holy mosques, in Riyadh in the sisterly Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.

Abu-Nidal Gunmen Said Working for State Intelligence

LD0811104394 London THE INDEPENDENT in English 8 Nov 94 p 12

[Report by Robert Fisk: "Jordan Poaches Abu-Nidal Gunmen"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Beirut—The Jordanian security service has poached gunmen from Abu-Nidal's notorious Palestinian assassination group to work for Jordanian intelligence—reportedly in the occupied West Bank.

The men, all originally loyal to Sabri al-Banna (Abu-Nidal's real name), who has at various times worked for both the Iraqi and Libyan governments, were recruited in Lebanon after a bloody split within the movement, and then given air tickets to Amman. Several dozen young men from the organisation were spirited off to Jordan after the Palestine Liberation Organisation and Israel reached their secret peace agreement last year.

Palestinian and other sources in Beirut say that Abu-Nidal's Palestine Revolutionary Council, enraged that the Jordanian secret service should have suborned their men, decided to strike back brutally at King Husayn's government. According to the same sources, their response came in the hitherto unexplained assassination just over nine months ago of Na'ib 'Imran Ma'ayitah, the Jordanian embassy first secretary in Beirut. It was Ma'ayitah, they now say, who issued air tickets for Jordan to Abu-Nidal's men and gave them their Jordanian visas on behalf of intelligence officers in Amman.

Immediately after Ma'ayitah's killing, King Husayn claimed that the murderers had received their orders from an Arab government—he did not name the country, although it was widely believed to be Libya—and the Lebanese authorities swiftly detained 25 members of Abu-Nidal's group, eventually charging three of them with the murder. The alleged ring-leader, Yusuf Mahmud Sha'ban, was this summer sentenced to life imprisonment for the killing. It was Sha'ban who briefly caused a sensation at the Beirut hearings by shouting out that he had been responsible for the 1988 Lockerbie airliner bombing. US and British diplomats later dismissed his claim, although in 1990 the Swedish government deported several Palestinians with the same family name of Sha'ban.

Beirut sources say that the Jordanians induced the Abu-Nidal men to join their intelligence service to work undercover in the West Bank—at a time when King Husayn was deeply upset by Yasir 'Arafat's secret deal with Israel.

Exactly what role the Abu-Nidal men may have already played in the occupied territories is unknown, although few would doubt their loyalty to their new masters. "All of us knew there was a conduit for the Abu-Nidal people in Amman," a knowledgeable Palestinian source said yesterday.

"There was a commercial business in Amman—a supermarket—which used to be their unofficial office there. This was a natural place for an office, because Abu-Nidal's people are a kind of company, hiring themselves out as gunmen to anyone who wants to pay for them—they'll work for anyone except for the Palestinians. King Husayn would have obvious uses for such people—to help prevent other members of the group assassinating him on the orders of another Arab government after the peace treaty with Israel, and to oppose 'Arafat himself in the West Bank. To paralyse any negative movement—to keep Abu-Nidal's people at bay—you have to have a part of the Abu-Nidal movement."

In Beirut, where Abu-Nidal's loyalists maintain a public office, the organisation has always denied any part in the killing of Ma'ayitah, who was shot down by a lone gunman outside his home in the Raouche district of the city on 29 January. It is not the first time that the "Fatah Revolutionary Council" has shown its ruthlessness at Jordanian infiltration attempts. One of Abu-Nidal's politburo officials was reportedly forced to "execute" his mother- in-law and sister-in-law in 1986 on the grounds that they were Jordanian agents. Lebanon has suffered from the group's activities ever since one of its members tried to assassinate the Israeli ambassador to London in 1982—giving Israel a reason for invading Lebanon.

President Yeltsin's Envoy Meets With Officials

Al-Majali, Posuvalyuk Discuss Peace

JN0511161394 Amman Radio Jordan in English 1200 GMT 5 Nov 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Prime Minister 'Abd-al-Salam al-Majali has met with visiting Russian envoy Viktor Posuvalyuk.

Talks tackled efforts exerted by Russia to give momentum to the peace process on all tracks.

Minister of State Receives Posuvalyuk

JN0511175694 Amman PETRA-JNA in Arabic 1530 GMT 5 Nov 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Amman, 5 Nov (PETRA)—Talal Sat'an al-Hasan, minister of state for foreign affairs, received at his office today Viktor Posuvalyuk, Russian President Boris Yeltsin's envoy.

The Russian envoy conveyed congratulations from the Russian Government and people to Jordan, king, government, and people on the signing of the peace treaty. He also praised His Majesty King Husayn's courage and wisdom, and spoke about the positive results the peace treaty will bring to the peace efforts and to security and stability in the region.

Both sides praised the special relations between Jordan and Russia. They also discussed cooperation between the two countries and means to promote it.

King Receives Envoy, Yeltsin Message

JN0511181594 Amman Radio Jordan in English 1700 GMT 5 Nov 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] His majesty the king has received a message from Russian President Boris Yeltsin pledging support of the Jordanian-Israeli Peace Treaty. The message was conveyed by Russian Presidential Envoy Viktor Posuvalyuk who said Moscow would contribute to building a peaceful Middle East.

Mr. Posuvalyuk said the Russian leadership was interested to nudge negotiations on other tracks of the peace process.

At a separate meeting, Prime Minister 'Abd-al-Salam al-Majali and the Russian envoy reviewed efforts by Russia and the United States, cosponsors of the peace process, to advance negotiations on the Syrian-Israeli and Lebanese-Israeli tracks.

Dr. al-Majali told the envoy that Jordan was keen on just and comprehensive peace, noting that he agreed with Mr. Posuvalyuk that a settlement should be based on UN Resolutions 242 and 338.

Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Talal al-Hasan briefed the Russian official on the constitutional process leading to enactment of the Jordanian-Israeli peace treaty.

Mr. al-Hasan told Mr. Viktor Posuvalyuk that the Lower House of the Parliament's Foreign Affairs Committee had recommended that the peace treaty be ratified.

He said that in addition to securing Jordan's territorial and water rights, the treaty would contribute to strengthening just and comprehensive peace, and giving momentum to other tracks of the peace process.

Mr. al-Hasan also told the envoy that the peace accord was a substantial step towards achieving security and prosperity for all the peoples of the Middle East and for creating opportunities for cooperation among them.

Posuvalyuk Leaves After 3-Day Visit

JN0611212794 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 1900 GMT 6 Nov 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Viktor Posuvalyuk, the Russian president's special envoy, left Amman today after a three-day visit to Jordan. During the visit, he conveyed a message to His Majesty King Husayn from [Russian] President Boris Yeltsin. Posuvalyuk met with Prime Minister Dr. 'Abd-al-Salam al-Majali. He also held talks with Talal Sat'an al-Hasan, minister of state for foreign affairs, on bilateral relations, the peace process, and the Jordanian-Israeli treaty.

Further Involvement in Peace Talks Urged

JN0611105794 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic 6 Nov 94 pp 1, 21

[Editorial: "The Russian Role in the Comprehensive Solution"]

[FBIS Translated Text] During the official talks held in the kingdom yesterday with Viktor Posuvalyuk, the Russian president's special envoy, Jordan and Russia stressed the need to achieve a comprehensive, just, and lasting peace in the Middle East. The two sides agreed that the realization of this goal is contingent on the implementation of international legitimacy resolutions and the land for peace formula, which was the basis of the Madrid peace conference.

The Russian envoy agreed with the Jordanian officials that the Jordanaian-Israeli treaty is an important step toward a comprehensive, just, and durable peace. He said this common stand is being given due attention by the two countries' leaders and serves as an incentive for accelerating the peace process on other negotiating tracks.

The kingdom has always stressed that a peaceful resolution of the Arab-Israeli conflict should be comprehensive. It has also stressed the need to secure the durability of this resolution through a settlement based on trading land for peace in accordance with international legitimacy on the one hand, and settling all aspects of the conflict on the other. The kingdom has further emphasized the need for a comprehensive solution after the signing of the treaty with Israel because comprehensive peace is a basic guarantee for turning this treaty from a contract on paper to a tangible reality that will secure the treaty's durability.

The congruity of the Russian and Jordanian views on this issue paves the way for the two countries' concerted efforts to help the Madrid process reach its sought goals and to develop their bilateral relations in the post-peace era.

While we highly regard the Russian role in the progress made so far in the peace process in the region, we expect this role to further contribute toward the completion of the Madrid process by encouraging the Israeli side to quickly respond to the international legitimacy and to withdraw from the rest of the occupied Arab lands. We hope that this role will also contribute to convincing Tel Aviv that peace will guarantee its security more than its qualitative and quantitative edge in conventional and unconventional weapons. Comprehensive peace will guarantee Israel's security and stability while regional arms race constitutes a major threat to its security.

Al-Majali Meets With French Military Official

JN0711142294 Amman Radio Jordan in English 1200 GMT 7 Nov 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Prime Minister 'Abd-al-Salam al-Majali has received visiting Chairman of the French Joint Chiefs of Staff Admiral Jacques Lanxade in the presence of Minister of State Yusuf Dalabih.

Discussions dealt with the latest developments of the peace process, and the role of the signing of the Jordan-Israel peace agreement in bolstering stability and security in this region.

The talks also covered bilateral relations and means of promoting joint cooperation in the military sector.

King Husayn Receives Admiral Lanxade

JN0711173294 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 1600 GMT 7 Nov 94

[FBIS Translated Text] His Majesty King Husayn received at the Royal Hashemite Court today French Admiral Lanxade, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff of France, who is currently visiting Jordan.

During the meeting, his majesty underlined the need to achieve a just and comprehensive peace in the region and to reach peaceful accords on all the other Arab tracks, pointing out the role France can play in this regard. His majesty also asserted the need to boost military cooperation, particularly in training cadres, holding seminars, and exchanging military delegations. His majesty explained the Jordanian Armed Forces' need for French technical help to promote the efficiency of the Armed Forces and to modernize their capabilities.

For his part, Admiral Lanxade offered his congratulations on the signing of the peace treaty. He praised His Majesty King Husayn's courage in making peace and the role carried out by the Jordanian Armed Forces in keeping security and stability in the region and in several parts of the world through their participation in international peacekeeping forces.

The meeting was attended by Staff General 'Abd-al-Hafiz Mar'i al-Ka'abinah, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff.

IAF Objects to Ministry Decision To Ban Sermons

JN0511112694 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 5 Nov 94 p 8

[FBIS Translated Text] Islamic Action Front [IAF] deputies issued a statement yesterday in which they objected to a decision made by the Ministry of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs to ban IAF deputies from delivering sermons in the houses of God. They say they have been performing this duty for decades in accordance with the Ministry's arrangements. Some of them have been delivering sermons for 40 years.

Their statement adds that the deputies, who have been banned from delivering sermons, preach national unity, social cohesiveness, and good conduct. They are the ones who stand against the negative effects of the recently signed peace treaty.

The IAF deputies called for canceling this decision which limits the freedom and work of clergymen and preachers and prevents them from performing their religious and national duty.

Al-Shar' Cairo Meeting With Mubarak Reported

JN0811075494 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0515 GMT 8 Nov 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Yesterday afternoon, Egyptian President Muhammad Husni Mubarak received Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar'. Al-Shar' handed him a message from President Hafiz al-Asad on the Arab situation and the latest developments in the peace process. The meeting was attended by Egyptian Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa and Dr. 'Isa Darwish, Syria's ambassador in Cairo.

Following the meeting, al-Shar' spoke to reporters. Commenting on reports that the [Syrian-Israeli] talks will resume in Washington this month, the foreign minister said: There is no official confirmation of this. However, we expect U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher to arrive in the region before the end of this month for talks in Damascus and other states. When something is reached, then the talks may resume in Washington.

Replying to a question on the results of U.S. President Bill Clinton's visit to Damascus, al-Shar' said: I can say that President Clinton's visit to Damascus and his talks with President Hafiz al-Asad have yielded positive results. I believe the U.S. President has made statements that inspire optimism. We have felt that President Clinton is personally interested in following up the peace process on the Syrian and Lebanese tracks. During his upcoming visit, Secretary Christopher will see what progress could be made on these two tracks. The foreign minister added: We have sensed a U.S. understanding of the argument of full withdrawal in exchange for full peace.

Answering another question on recent statements made by Tariq 'Aziz, deputy prime minister of the Iraqi regime, to the effect that Iraq is no longer at war with Israel and whether this would put any pressure on Syria, al-Shar' said: This is the business of the Iraqi officials, and this does not put any pressure on Syria in the negotiations because Syria insists on its positions and fair demands to achieve a just and comprehensive peace in the region, based on international legitimacy, UN resolutions, and the land-for-peace principle.

Responding to a question on the Syrian position in the wake of the Casablanca summit, al-Shar' said: We have exchanged views with 'Amr Musa in this regard, and we are still watching how the Casablanca conference is unfolding. Syria and Egypt have been coordinating for a long time; this coordination will continue in the interest of the two fraternal states and the Arab nation. This Syrian position enjoys Arab and international support, especially by the cosponsors of the peace process, the United States and Russia.

Answering the same question, 'Amr Musa said: We think that Iraq should change its attitude toward Kuwait as well. It is strange that Iraq should change its attitude toward Israel before changing its attitude toward Kuwait. As al-Shar' said, this is Iraq's business.

Earlier, Foreign Minister al-Shar' held talks with Egyptian Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa. The talks addressed the Arab situation. The two ministers agreed to continue contacts between the two sides to serve the interest of the two fraternal peoples and support the basic rights of the Arab nation. Al-Shar' also met with Arab League Secretary General Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid, in the presence of 'Amr Musa. The conferees discussed the current Arab situation and the Arab League's role in defending pan-Arab rights.

Prior to departure from Cairo Airport, Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' spoke to reporters, saying he had discussed with Egyptian Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa the Arab situation in all its aspects, noting that the Arab situation is deteriorating day by day. He said there was emphasis on the need to improve the Arab situation in confronting the current challenges.

Commenting on reports published by HA'ARETZ on secret Syrian-Israeli military meetings and that Syria has agreed to a withdrawal from the Golan over 16 months, al-Shar' denied these reports, saying this information is untrue. He said it is possible to agree to resume the negotiations in Washington on clear and sound foundations after U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher's visit to Damascus before the end of this month. He said so far there have been some contacts through Dennis Ross, the U.S. general coordinator for the peace process. Al-Shar' expressed hope that progress will be made, noting that this depends on how serious Israel is and on the requirements of peace spelled out by Syria.

Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' arrived in Cairo yesterday afternoon and left in the evening. He was received and seen off by Egyptian Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa, senior Foreign Ministry officials, Dr. 'Isa Darwish, Syria's ambassador in Cairo, and the Embassy staff.

Government Said 'Not Worried' by U.S. Line

MM0711135494 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 7 Nov 94 p 2

[Report by Muhammad Shuqayr: "Damascus Does Not Expect an Achievement for Some Months"]

[FBIS Translated Excerpts] Beirut—The Lebanese-Syrian mini-summit held the day before yesterday between Presidents Ilyas al-Hirawi and Hafiz al-Asad in Damascus transcended the "problem" resulting from the press interview given to the Egyptian "MIDDLE EAST AGENCY" by the Lebanese president regarding the terms he offered in return for ending the Israeli occupation of part of Lebanese territory in the south and in western al-Biqa'.

Official Lebanese sources have told AL-HAYAH that the mini-summit did not dwell on what President al-Hirawi had said. Because the clarifications he made immediately after the interview contributed to intercepting the reactions, especially as some media services altered the position offered by the Lebanese president. [passage omitted]

As for the results of the mini-summit, the official Lebanese sources said that President al-Asad briefed President al-Hirawi on the results of his talks with President Clinton.

The sources cited the Syrian leadership's satisfaction with the results of these talks, despite the existence of some outstanding points relating to Washington's request to end the military presence of Hizballah and the fundamentalist tendencies. But Damascus stressed that what is happening in the occupied areas in southern Lebanon and western al-Biqa' is not terrorism, but rather, determination to fight the occupier—something sanctioned by international conventions and human rights laws.

The official sources pointed out that al-Asad stressed to al-Hirawi that he discussed with President Clinton the Lebanese issue and the need for the two tracks to move parallel and not to be separated by preparing for separate solutions.

The sources said that the Syrian leadership is not worried about the U.S. position. In fact it is satisfied with the development that has occurred in Washington's understanding of the Syrian and Lebanese positions. The sources stressed that Damascus and Washington are working to secure a clear and comprehensive agreement not limited to the achievement of the broad outlines and major points.

The sources quoted the Syrian leadership as saying that Washington has begun to understand Damascus' view rejecting any agreement based [as published] on the general principles included in the invitations to attend the Madrid negotiations, which were later moved to Washington.

In this context efforts are being made through the U.S.-Syrian talks and the role Washington is playing to convince Tel Aviv of the need to achieve an agreement whose details are clear.

The official sources—in the light of the atmosphere that dominated the summit proceedings—ruled out the possibility of an agreement being reached on the Syrian-Israeli track before the end of the year. They said that there are issues which still have not been settled. However, they did not rule out the possibility of an understanding being reached on a solution plan within four to five months.

The sources expressed their belief that Washington's and Tel Aviv's election concerns prompt them to hasten to produce the final picture of a settlement before they become entirely preoccupied with the election issue. The official sources said here that the Syrian leadership is convinced that Washington and the ruling bloc in Tel Aviv wish to achieve tangible progress on the Syrian-Israeli track before the election date approaches.

Concluding, the sources said that the mini-summit renewed the emphasis on negotiation coordination between Lebanon and Syria and the rejection of any attempt to separate the two tracks from one another. And that reactivating moves on the Lebanese track depends on Washington's speedy efforts to convince Tel Aviv of the need to change its position so as to prepare suitable conditions for a speedy final agreement on the Syrian-Israeli front. The sources said that the U.S. Administration's avoiding any discussion of Resolution 425 is part of the process of appeasing Israel.

Israeli Treatment of Clinton Visit Seen

JN0511094994 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0550 GMT 5 Nov 94

[Press review]

[FBIS Translated Text] In a comment headlined "Israel Is the Obstructive Side," AL-THAWRAH says that more than three years have passed since the beginning of international and particularly U.S. efforts to achieve a just, comprehensive peace in the region. However, Israel has not changed its expansionist and aggressive course against the Arabs, defying international legitimacy and refusing to implement its resolutions.

AL-THAWRAH refers to the Israeli prime minister's statements rejecting the implementation of UN Security Council Resolution 425, which stipulates that Israel withdraw its troop from southern Lebanon. The paper says: Persisting in defying the UN Security Council, the Israeli prime minister said that if the Lebanese Government is trying to return to Resolution 425, then he rejects that resolution.

AL-THAWRAH says that the only interpretation of this Israeli stand is that it disregards the UN Security Council, its members, and the international organization. It also indicates an attempt to seize and annex southern Lebanon and al-Biqa' al-Gharbi and that Israel is not committed to the peace initiative.

AL-THAWRAH says that in its deliberate effort to erase the results and significance of U.S. President Bill Clinton's visit to the region, the Israeli Government launched a media and propaganda clamor to becloud President Clinton's interest in the progress of the peace process and to cast doubts on his comments on his visit to Syria, a visit which led to progress on the Syrian track and to creating a more positive atmosphere.

Concluding, AL-THAWRAH says that the known and clear Syrian position—a position which has been reiterated during and before the Damascus and Geneva summits with President Clinton—was and still is a positive, objective stand on the peace process and its bases, without relinquishing rights or territory. This has prompted international political and media circles to affirm that no Middle East peace is possible without Syria's participation and the restoration of the Golan, southern Lebanon, and al-Biqa' al-Gharbi—two prerequisites for the establishment of security, stability, and comprehensive peace in the region.

In its editorial headlined "The Continued Israeli Intransigence," TISHRIN says that the Syrian and Lebanese peace tracks are stalemated because of the intransigent Israeli position. Without a substantive change in this position leading to full withdrawal from the Golan and southern Lebanon, it is impossible for the peace process to achieve any tangible progress.

TISHRIN says that Israeli intransigence has been quite evident in recent days through the feverish Israeli attempts to contain the results of the al-Asad-Clinton Damascus summit and failure to respond to the most basic requirements of the UN Security Council resolutions, as evidenced by the Israeli prime minister's rejection of UN Security Council Resolution 425.

TISHRIN says that some Arabs' rush to normalize relations with Israel and have economic dealings with it contravenes the resolutions of the Arab League and has encouraged the Tel Aviv rulers to show further intransigence and adherence to the occupied Arab territories.

TISHRIN asks: What has changed in the Israeli stand? The answer, the paper says, is that nothing has changed. The peace process, which is supposed to be based on UN Security Council resolutions, has been turned by Israel into unequal separate deals that do not meet Arab rights and aspirations.

Concluding, TISHRIN says: It was not through courtesy for Syria that U.S. President Clinton announced in Damascus that peace must be comprehensive and just and that without Syria's participation peace is impossible in the region.

Clinton Visit Said To Entrench Country's Role

JN0711111294 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0545 GMT 7 Nov 94

[Press review]

[FBIS Translated Text] TISHRIN says in an editorial that the interest displayed by the political and media observers and analysts toward the summit which President Hafiz al-Asad and U.S. President Bill Clinton held in Damascus is due mainly to the extreme importance of the peace process on the Syrian and Lebanese tracks. That interest is also based on the conviction that Middle East peace is impossible to achieve without Syria, and that what has been achieved between Israel and each of the PLO and Jordan is fragile and prone to shakes, especially since it falls short of the Arabs' ambitions and hopes, while peace with Syria provides the safety valve for the comprehensive solution in the region since it is based on a firm ground of rights and demands, which, Syria underlined, cannot be relinquished in any way.

TISHRIN says: Since the launch of the U.S. initiative, Syria stated clearly that the desired solution must be based on the UN Security Council resolutions, which stipulate Israel's full withdrawal from the occupied Arab territories and its troops' withdrawal to the borderlines of 4 June 1967. Syria had obtained U.S. assertions and assurances on the comprehensive solution and the implementation of the resolutions of international legitimacy.

The paper notes that during his talks with President Hafiz al-Asad in Damascus, President Clinton underlined these resolutions, the land-for-peace formula, and the equivalent security arrangements within the framework of a just and comprehensive peace.

The paper adds: Naturally, Israel, in keeping with its habit, cast doubts on the Syrian-U,S. summit and sought to contain its results. However, from now on Israel cannot in any way cast doubts on Syria's serious attitude toward the peace process and its unquestionable quest to achieve a just and final solution in the Middle East. President Clinton intentionally stated in Damascus and occupied Jerusalem that Syria longs for peace and is very serious and that President al-Asad seeks peace, but, at the same time, defends the rights of his country and people.

Concluding its commentary, TISHRIN stresses that the continued world persistent discussion of the Syrian-U.S. summit and its results means in the end the need for a change in the Israeli position, which, thus far, has been marked by intransigence, evasiveness, and ambiguity. Such a change requires a pressing position by the world community. The Middle East peace process cannot be achieved without Syria and President Clinton's visit entrenched Syria's vital and decisive role in the region.

In its commentary, AL-BA'TH stresses that the just and comprehensive peace, which is based on the UN resolutions and the land-for-peace formula, is the principal objective which Syria is ceaselessly and firmly seeking to achieve based on the fact that this is the only kind of peace that can survive; meet the demands of the people of the region to remove all consequences of aggression, occupation, and injustice; and provide the appropriate conditions to build their modern developed societies and tackle their economic problems.

AL-BA'TH adds: Since the Madrid conference, experience has shown that any attempt to deviate from the principles of such a peace will only lead to further tension, disturbances, and chaos.

In this regard, the paper refers to the tragedy of the self-rule, which constituted the first and most serious violation of the principles of the just and comprehensive peace. That tragedy came to erase and annul the Palestinian people's right to sovereignty, independence, and restoration of land. It directly entrenched the occupation. The same can be said about the Jordanian-Israeli peace treaty, which, all nationalistic and opposition forces agree, constitutes an infringement on sovereignty and rights and a triumph to Israel.

AL-BA'TH concludes by saying: In the light of these facts, the Syrian principles emerge to confirm that peace must either be just and comprehensive, or turn into a catastrophe for the national and pan-Arab rights and interests. Therefore, Syria persistently adheres to the principles of peace that are based on the resolutions of the Security Council and international legitimacy because it realizes this is the only way to protect the nation's rights and interests.

Israel's 'Disinformation Campaigns' Assailed

JN0811100294 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0550 GMT 8 Nov 94

[Press review]

[FBIS Translated Text] In its editorial today, AL-BA'TH emphasizes the need for a just and comprehensive peace in the region. The paper asserts that peace cannot be achieved unless Israel withdraws from the Golan and southern Lebanon, in line with the resolutions of international legitimacy and the land-for-peace principle.

The paper goes on: The reason for the lack of progress on the Syrian and Lebanese tracks is Israel's refusal to meet the requirements of peace and comply with the resolutions of international legitimacy.

The paper adds that Israel's disinformation campaigns—by holding Syria responsible for the lack of progress in the peace process—will do it no good. This is because there is international consensus on Syria's serious position to make the peace process succeed.

The paper stresses that Syria wants to discuss substantial issues, noting that once objective solutions are found to such issues, then the peace process will achieve its objectives.

The paper says that Syria's earnestness has been met with Israeli avoidance of substantial issues by bringing up issues that do not concern just and comprehensive peace at all.

AL-BA'TH asserts that Syria shall pursue its peace policy, because just and comprehensive peace is its strategic option. Israel should realize, however, that just peace cannot be achieved without Syria. This fact has been underscored by U.S. President Bill Clinton.

AL-THAWRAH comments on the importance of a just and comprehensive peace in the region, based on implementing the resolutions of international legitimacy and the land-for-peace principle.

The paper reasserts that the separate, inequitable deals concluded by Israel have had some serious, adverse effects on the foundations of the peace process and threatened its future. This is because these deals have achieved gains for Israel and met its objectives and ambitions, without offering any solution to the essence of the Arab-Israeli conflict.

The paper says the parties that have acted unilaterally have harmed their own interests, and not those of the Arabs, as President Hafiz al-Asad has asserted. Syria and Lebanon have joined the peace process after full coordination with each other and with the other Arab parties. This coordination is stronger than all Israel's attempts to separate one track from the other with a view to dealing with each party on its own.

AL-THAWRAH goes on: Leader al-Asad has made it clear that Syria and Lebanon shall adhere to their unified position and to the resolutions of international legitimacy. The paper says that peace without Syria and Lebanon will continue to remain incomplete and unviable, because separate deals do not make peace. The region will continue to be vulnerable to explosion as long as any part of Arab territory remains under occupation, and Israel will continue to be the reason for this explosion if it does not comply with the resolutions of international legitimacy and agree to a full and comprehensive withdrawal from the Golan, southern Lebanon, and western al-Biqa'. Full withdrawal is the only road to peace.

TISHRIN comments on Israel's efforts to implement its schemes and achieve its ambitions by promoting a new order in the Middle East. The paper says: Having accomplished some separate deals, Israel felt there is a pressing need to mislead the Arab public by propagating ideas about building a new Middle East. The purpose of this is to obliterate the Arab identity, rupture Arab ties, and busy the Arabs with internal problems and civil wars, so as to ultimately drain their economic resources and weaken them.

The paper adds that the recent successes made by Israel in the Arab arena through separate deals have increased its determination to put its hand on Arab resources under the slogan of building a new Middle East. Israel's general view of this scheme gives Israel the right to lead the new order and puts Arab resources, especially oil, at its disposal.

Radio on Desire for Peace, Israeli Intransigence

JN0711161694 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1240 GMT 7 Nov 94

[Station commentary]

[FBIS Translated Text] Gentlemen: Israel's positions are characterized by vagueness and ambiguity, and are often contradictory. One time, Israeli officials will say that no progress has been made on the Syrian track and at another they will say that progress really was made after U.S. President Bill Clinton's tour of the region. In general, Israeli officials deliberately avoid direct and frank talk when the issue is that of full withdrawal from the Golan. They either talk about withdrawal in the Golan or say that their announcement of full withdrawal would deprive them of their negotiating cards. In both cases, Israel's leaders insist on not answering the question that is the key to peace, not only on the Syrian track, but also in the region. The question is: Is Israel ready for full withdrawal from the Golan to the 4 June 1967 borders or not?

It is natural to say that the Israeli answer to the above question will determine the road of the peace process and whether this road will lead to a just and comprehensive peace or to maintaining the situation as it is, with all the inherent dangers posed to the region and the peace process.

We are confident that the Israeli leaders are completely convinced that peace with Syria and the whole region is contingent on full withdrawal from the Golan and southern Lebanon. We also believe that Yitzhaq Rabin's government cannot continue to ignore this fact forever. It is quite impossible for Israel to reap the fruits of peace and keep the land at the same time. This confirms that the ball is still in the Israeli court and that all the statements suggesting that the Syrian position is responsible for not making the required progress on the road to peace are meant to shirk responsibility and blame Syria.

The Israelis have said a great deal about the need for Syrian confidence-building measures. They have also said that Syria should prepare for peace. Such things are required from Israel and not from Syria, which announced its readiness to meet the requirements of peace and have ordinary relations ['alaqat 'adiyah] with Israel, but only after full withdrawal from all the occupied Syrian and Lebanese territories.

If Yitzhaq Rabin wants to hold a plebiscite on withdrawal from the Syrian lands, which are purely Syrian lands occupied by Israel, does he expect the Syrian people to agree to ceding a single iota of the Golan even if the reward is peace?

Confidence-building measures are required from Israel, which has waged wars and aggressions against the Arabs for half a century. Israel is the party that is still occupying the Golan and southern Lebanon. Rabin is required to prepare the Israeli people for peace and to clearly announce—and couple word with deed—that the Golan is Syrian land and that withdrawal from it is the road to the aspired peace.

Peace requires preparation from both sides. Syria has announced its readiness for this peace and the whole world testifies to this. Is Israel really ready for peace, or does it still believe that it can continue procrastinating forever and avoiding the requirements of peace?

There is no doubt that a just and comprehensive peace is now closer at hand than ever before if Israel really wants to make peace. This peace requires no more than what is called for by the international community, the U.S. Administration, and U.S. President Bill Clinton, and what Syria constantly emphasizes, that is, the implementation of Security Council resolutions and the return to the principle of trading land for peace. We do not think that the implementation of this requires magic or a miracle.

Desire for Comprehensive Peace Emphasized

JN0511182894 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1248 GMT 5 Nov 94

[Station commentary]

[FBIS Translated Text] Gentlemen: Whenever international efforts, particularly those of the U.S. co-sponsor, tried to rectify the course of the peace process, the Israeli officials quickly did their best to empty peace of its substance, derail the peace process, and place more obstacles before it.

In return for the optimism spread by the summit held between Presidents Hafiz al-Asad and Bill Clinton over the possibility of promoting the peace process, the Israeli officials plunged this process into further pessimism. Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin did not hide his dissatisfaction with the results of the Damascus summit and with President Clinton's remarks which stressed the importance of Syria's central role in achieving a just and comprehensive peace, as well as with the U.S. Administration's commitment to achieving such a peace by implementing both the resolutions of international legitimacy and the land-for-peace principle.

Rabin made successive statements that rejected the Security Council resolutions and emphasized his intransigent wish not to comply with the will of the international community. This community is now aware that Israeli occupation is the major obstacle to achieving a breakthrough in the peace process.

According to Rabin, declaring Israeli withdrawal from the Golan will weaken Israel's negotiating position. Rabin and his aides are trying to give the impression that by so doing Israel will relinquish its own territory or rights. This is an exposed attempt to reverse facts and pursue hideous deception and disinformation.

Israel's aggressive practices in southern Lebanon and its repressive practices in the occupied Arab territories confirm the true Israeli intentions which are hostile to peace. Meanwhile, the Israeli officials are deliberately placing obstacles before both the peace process and the efforts designed to promote it according to its set bases and principles.

Israel still imagines that it can circumvent the realities and requisites of peace, led by a full withdrawal from the Golan and southern Lebanon. It also still seeks partial and unequal agreements similar to those through which it achieved breakthroughs that served its own interest without paying attention to the requisites of a just, comprehensive, and durable peace.

Israel wants incomplete and separate solutions that will serve its own interests and enable it to totally or partially continue its occupation of Arab territories. Regrettably, Israel has wagered on Arab divisions and the lack of coordination. Some [Arabs] have even abandoned this coordination. What is even stranger than all this is the fact that Israel still tries to cast doubt on Syria's positions and peaceful approaches. President al-Asad asserted that these approaches are tantamount to a strategic option.

The whole world, led by President Clinton, now has realistic proof that the Syrian intentions are honest. Meanwhile, there is nothing to prove that the Israeli intentions are honest. Israel is pursuing a detestable game designed to gain time and evade the realities of peace.

Israel, which rejects the principle of full withdrawal, does not want peace because it is aware that Syria cannot agree on bargaining over its territory or selling out its rights. Israel is also practicing continued acts of aggression against southern Lebanon and persisting in its terrorism in terms of abductions, assassinations, starvation, encirclement of villages and cities, and even the shelling of cities, villages, and camps.

Syria wants a just and comprehensive peace in harmony with the standards of international legitimacy; a peace that responds to the international resolutions, achieves the interests of all, and preserves the dignity of all. Naturally, it is difficult to talk about a breakthrough in the peace process unless Israel abandons its aggressive conduct and declares its readiness to fully withdraw from the Golan and southern Lebanon in accordance with the international resolutions.

It is natural for us to expect the U.S. Administration to successfully prompt the Israeli side to establish peace on its firm bases which were declared by President Clinton. Peace can only be achieved through full [Israeli] withdrawal. Real peace is one that gives everyone his due rights and secures the interests of all. As President al-Asad said, peace should remove occupation, and should also be just and dignified.

Afghanistan

Government Approves UN Peace Plan 'in Principle'

LD0711180994 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Pashto 1530 GMT 7 Nov 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Esteemed 'Aziz Murad, head of the presidential press office, has announced Afghanistan's stance and viewpoints regarding the UN peace proposal.

In reply to a question by a BAKHTAR INFORMATION AGENCY correspondent on Afghanistan's stance regarding the UN peace proposal drafted by Mr. Mahmoud Mestiri, special envoy of the UN secretary general, esteemed Murad said: The Islamic State of Afghanistan and its allies have prepared and presented their viewpoints concerning the UN peace plan on Afghanistan. They were handed over to esteemed Mas'ud Khalili [a representative of the government] in Pakistan who subsequently handed them over to Mr. Mestiri. Mr. Mestiri has now taken them with him to New York.

Esteemed Murad added: The Islamic State of Afghanistan and its allies have, in principle, approved the UN peace plan. They accepted its key points including the formation of a commission, a nationwide cease-fire, transfer of power, and formation of a Loya Jera.

In reply to a question on the structure of the commission, esteemed Murad said the structure of the commission has been foreseen in such a manner to be acceptable to all sides. The commission should be comprised of two representatives from each of the nine jihadi groups, 10 intellectuals and ulema living inside or outside the country, and two representatives from each of the province. Esteemed Murad added: The details of the viewpoints of the Islamic State of Afghanistan will be published by the mass media.

Rabbani Said To Accept Proposals

LD0811113694 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1030 GMT 8 Nov 94

[FBIS Translated Text] An Afghanistan Government spokesman in Peshawar reports that Borhanoddin Rabbani has accepted the recent peace proposal made by a UN special envoy, but with a number of amendments. Mahmoud Mestiri had proposed that a 26-man commission, comprising the representatives of Rabbani's side, the faction opposing him, and UN representatives, should be formed to discuss the political future of Afghanistan.

Borhanoddin Rabbani has proposed that the representatives from Afghanistan's provinces should also participate in this commission.

Government Official on Uzbekistan's 'Interference'

LD0711225394 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Dari 1630 GMT 7 Nov 94

[News conference by Acting Prime Minister Ahmad Shah Ahmadzai with unidentified correspondents in Kabul on 7 November—recorded]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] [Arabic prayer omitted] [Ahmadzai] We thank all the brothers who have come to this news conference and we ask them to render special cooperation with us in the publicizing of our conference inside and outside the country, especially abroad, in order that the people become aware of the injustices that are being carried out against our nation, our Islamic state. Our compatriots and the world know that peace delegations, whether within the country or from abroad, make efforts to resolve the Afghan problem, especially Mahmoud Mestiri, special envoy of United Nations, who went to Jalalabad and visited some other cities of Afghanistan to help with the peace process and to bring about a cease-fire.

The stance of the Islamic State of Afghanistan on the cease-fire, on the cessation of war, is positive. And the state always wants to put an end to this war, and for our people to emerge from this pain and this devilish situation, especially now that the severe cold weather of the winter is approaching and when the people of Kabul city are facing much hardship. They should live in peace and security during the coming winter. Unfortunately, despite the fact that those efforts are made in connection with peace, some states, especially our neighboring country of Uzbekistan, has embarked on unmanly interference and aggression. Instead of attempting to alleviate the pains of the people of Afghanistan as neighbors of this country [words indistinct] and does not want to see a lasting peace in Afghanistan.

Since 1 January 1994, when the coup d'etat of the so-called Coordination Council was mounted—and this fighting still continues—thanks to God they have not achieved anything from that coup d'etat. The government of Uzbekistan, instead of supporting the legal and sharia-accepted state of Afghanistan has assisted and supported a rebel and criminal militia. This is a blatant aggression by the people or the government of Uzbekistan against the people of Afghanistan. And we seriously demand of the human-loving communities, the Islamic Conference Organization, and especially the United Nations, which currently promotes a peace process in Afghanistan, to draw the attention of Uzbekistan to its mistakes, its aggression, in order that they stop this unmanly aggression. And the United Nations should place its observers along the Afghanistan-Uzbekistan borders.

Today we give you journalists some proofs to convey to the people. They are some samples we have acquired, and are based on authentic documents which show you instances of Uzbekistan's interference.

1. After the start of fighting on 1 January 1994, the state of Uzbekistan sent 30 T-62 tanks, as well as ammunition for different kinds of weapons, to Dostam's militia.

2. A number of technical personnel to reactivate the air defense systems and to carry out aircraft repairs have been made available by Uzbekistan to Dostam's militia.

3. On the night of 20-21 October, two Su-22 and two MiG aircraft crossed the border of Uzbekistan and carried out a savage bombardment of Bagram airport.

4. After 16 October 1994, six L-39 aircraft were transferred from Mazar-e Sharif airport to Uzbekistan in exchange for four Su-22 aircraft, one of which was flown to Sheberghan or Mazar-e Sharif airport.

5. Work continues on the transfer of six L-39 aircraft to Uzbekistan and of four jet aircraft from Uzbekistan to Mazar-e Sharif or Sheberghan. It means that Dostam transfers those aircraft without the permission of the central administration of the Islamic State of Afghanistan. From all the L-39 aircraft Afghanistan possessed, now only 12 are left in Mazar-e Sharif and Sheberghan; the rest have been flown to Uzbekistan.

This transaction between the militia and the Government of Uzbekistan is illegal and is a blatant aggression and a shameless interference in the internal affairs of Afghanistan. Although protests have been made through the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the State of Afghanistan in the past, we did not want to take the issue to the cabinet level. But we see that the violation of Uzbekistan against the rights of the people of Afghanistan increases every day. So the cabinet was obliged to put the interference of Uzbekistan on top of its agenda and resolved that the cabinet will very strongly condemn Uzbekistan's interference. If Uzbekistan does not refrain from this act, the Afghan Government and nation are not of the class of people who do not have the ability of responding to Uzbekistan or of seeking revenge. But we very much value peace in the region. It is hoped that the United Nations will draw the attention of Uzbekistan to this mistake in order that Uzbekistan refrains from such futile interference.

Now, if the brothers have any questions, please relay them to me.

[Correspondent] Correspondent of the BAKHTAR INFORMATION AGENCY: You said that Uzbekistan interfered in the internal affairs of the Islamic State of Afghanistan since 1 January. What measure, militarily and politically, has the Islamic State of Afghanistan taken in this respect?

[Ahmadzai] So far as we have been able, and I know it has been tried through the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, our embassy in Uzbekistan, and through indirect contact, and through its friends, to tell Uzbekistan to give up such activity. But, unfortunately, Uzbekistan has so far considered our words as being unimportant, and we are very sorry for the government of Uzbekistan because we dealt with them in a fraternal and good-neighborly manner. But they, in response, dealt with us in a hostile manner, which is not good for Uzbekistan.

[Correspondent] What proof do you have of Uzbekistan's interference?

[Ahmadzai] Dr. Abdollah, representative of the Ministry of Defense, is here. We have very clear and authentic proofs, which the Islamic State of Afghanistan will present to any organization such as the Islamic Conference Organization or the United Nations. If the United Nations will discuss this issue in the Security Council, the Islamic State of Afghanistan is ready to defend its claim.

[Correspondent] Can you tell us how much longer you will wait and if you are going to respond. What will be your response?

[Ahmadzai] My reply will be that before any response we will contact the Islamic Conference Organization and the United Nations, and our strong demand of them is to draw the attention of Uzbekistan to its acts, and not to allow Uzbekistan to continue these kinds of crimes any more. Even the United Nations—and it is our demand—can place a team of observer along the Afghanistan-Uzbekistan border so that they can see whether our claim is true or not.

[Correspondent] At the beginning of your address you said that some countries interfered in the internal affairs of Afghanistan. You gave details of the interference by Uzbekistan. Can you tell us, apart from Uzbekistan, which other countries interfere?

[Ahmadzai] Some call the Afghan war a power struggle. Although this could be true to some extent, there has always been foreign interference in the internal affairs of Afghanistan. We do not want to make public the names of all those who interfere. If this interference continues, we consider it our national and Islamic duty to inform our compatriots about this foreign interference, as we have done as regards Uzbekistan, and to support our claims with authentic documents. We waited for Uzbekistan for a long time, so if the other foreign hands also fail to understand, we might well one day show these documents to our people and to the people of the world. [Words indistinct] while we ourselves need peace, we have no obligation to accuse another country. Slander is prohibited in Islam, as well as in international law. It is not allowed for a country, especially an Islamic country, to bring illicit accusations against another country. We considered Uzbekistan's interference to be a sin, and considered it our national duty to inform our own people and the people of the world that the Government of Uzbekistan had begun this act of oppression against the people of Afghanistan.

[Correspondent] [Passage indistinct]

[Ahmadzai] They have no other excuse. For instance, Dostam and his militia have large expenditures, and have to meet them. If it is not the interference of Uzbekistan, from where does Dostam get his funds for such a huge expenditure? Neither is Dostam a state to print banknotes, nor is he a state to receive international loans. Unless Uzbekistan supplies him with funds, fuel and other combat means, Dostam could not fight for more than 20 days. For this reason our evidence ie strong and correct. Though the Uzbekistan Foreign Ministry denies it, it is because it has no other excuse for its country's illicit act but denial.

Thank you for coming, and may God bless you with a long life. If you have no more questions, our news conference will conclude.

President Rabbani Meets With Sudanese Delegation

LD0711200294 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Pashto 1530 GMT 7 Nov 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Esteemed Professor Borhanoddin Rabbani, president of the Islamic State of Afghanistan, received a special delegation from the Republic of Sudan.

The presidential press office reports to BAKHTAR INFORMATION AGENCY that at the meeting, the esteemed president briefed the delegation on our country's military and political situation and the policy of the Islamic State of Afghanistan. He added: We have never been and will not be in favor of war and bloodshed. Esteemed president welcomed the efforts of the United Nations and the friendly countries toward ensuring peace in our country.

The Sudanese delegation expressed the readiness of its country to help the people of Afghanistan to resolve the current problems and reconstruct their country.

The Sudanese delegation is headed by Imam Hasan 'Umar, a representative of Dr. Hasan Turabi and includes Shaykh Yasin 'Umar and Shaykh Muhammad Ibrahim, Sudan's ambassdor to Kabul.

India

Kashmir Affairs Department Becomes Operational

BK0511085294 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1530 GMT 4 Nov 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The newly formed Department of Jammu and Kashmir Affairs has become operational as a part of the Prime Minister's Office. The home secretary, Mr. K. Padmanabaiah, will also be the secretary of the new department. An official spokesman said in New Delhi today that the government have been the examining the suggestion for a separate department for quite sometime and its creation is not a sudden development. He pointed out that the prime minister was regularly reviewing the situation in the border state. A team of senior officials led by a secretary in the Prime Minister's Office was deputed to the state more than once to tune-up the administration. The spokesman said the aim of the whole exercize is to restore normalcy and to revive the political process. Some groundwork has already been done to pave the way for holding elections, he added.

The J and K [Jammu and Kashmir] Panther's Party chief, Mr. Bhim Singh, in a statement has expressed satisfaction at the prime minister taking over direct charge of Jammu and Kashmir affairs

Official Confident of 5.5-Percent GDP Growth

BK0511122194 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0245 GMT 5 Nov 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The Reserve Bank of India governor, Dr. S. Rangarajan, says there are clear signs of seven percent industrial recovery this year which will enable the country to register a 5.5-percent GDP growth rate. Addressing the bankers club in Madras, he said the decline in the inflation rate is encouraging, but more efforts are necessary to bring it down further. Dr. Rangarajan was confident that it will be possible to contain monetary growth to within 16 percent during the current financial year.

Commentary: Next 3 Days 'Crucial' for Bangladesh

BK0811085194 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0245 GMT 8 Nov 94

[Commentary by Achin Ray]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The simmering political crisis in Bangladesh is fast coming to a head with both the government and the opposition set for a showdown. The opposition parties have decided to resign in mass from national parliament if their demand for early general elections under a neutral caretaker government was not accepted. The opposition parties have been boycotting parliament since February last to press for their demand, but the government headed by Begum Khaleda Zia of Bangladesh Nationalist Party refused to concede the demand terming it as unconstitutional which resulted in an eight-month old impasse. Considering the gravity of the situation, the Commonwealth sent its representative, Sir Ninian Stephen, to mediate between the two sides to find a meeting point in breaking the deadlock, but that has remained elusive so far. The stark reality in Bangladesh is that since its emergence as an independent nation in 1971, a ruling party never lost an election and the opposition blocs each time cried foul charging the government with rampart rigging and naked manipulations to tamper with the election results in favor of the ruling party.

In an irony of fate, situations have changed a lot since then. The entire opposition on 29 October rejected outright a ruling party proposal of an interim government headed by Begum Zia herself to supervise the general elections. With both the government and the opposition in an apparent mood not to budge from their respective stands, political developments in the next three days appear to be very crucial. Meanwhile, clinks in the ruling bloc have surfaced with the sacking of the information minister, Mr. Nazmul Huda, for advocating a proposal of an interim government headed by the present chief justice for holding the polls. Reports say that the Awami League and the second largest group Jatiya Party and others have already collected the resignation letters from their MP's and if the demand was not accepted, the letters will be submitted to the speaker. The opposition parties with the combined strength of 165 in a 330-member house also plan to launch a sit-in demonstration before the prime minister's office. If the opposition members eventually resign en masse, the government has two options, either to hold by-elections for the vacant seats or dissolve parliament. After the announcement of the opposition's decision on resignation, the ruling party went into an emergency session. However, Commonwealth mediator Sir Ninian, who was reportedly sick in the past, has started consultations with the Western diplomats and others concerned to find a way out.

Iran

Two Bombs Explode in South Tehran; Casualties

LD0811042594 Tehran IRNA in English 0405 GMT 8 Nov 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, Nov. 8, IRNA—Two powerful bombs went off in the crowded neighborhoods of southern Tehran Monday [7 November] night, claiming three lives and wounding scores of people. Eyewitness reports say that the first explosion was in Feda'ian-e Eslam neighborhood in southwestern Tehran. The bomb was planted inside a trash can. The explosion caused the death of two passengers of a car parked next to the trash can.

Eyewitness reports also say that the second bomb went off at Chit-Sazi intersection. The explosion claimed the life of a passerby. No definite count of the injured is available at the moment. Chit-Sazi, located in southwestern Tehran, is one of the most crowded intersections in southern Tehran.

Security Official on 'Terrorist Move'

LD0811073094 Tehran IRNA in English 0710 GMT 8 Nov 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, Nov. 8, IRNA—A security official here Tuesday [8 November] said that clues have been found about those involved in the Monday night bomb blasts in Tehran. He further added that security forces are pursuing "those involved in this terrorist move". However, he declined to further elaborate on the identity of the agents.

The explosions in the crowded neighborhoods of southern Tehran on Monday night claimed the lives of two people but no one was injured, he said. Earlier reports quoting eyewitnesses said that three people were killed. He said that experts are investigating the case and the results would be announced later.

Two bombs went off in Feda'ian-e Eslam Street and Chit-Sazi intersection, both in the crowded southern Tehran, Monday night. A bus and part of the wall of a silo near which the bomb went off at Chit-Sazi intersection were destroyed.

On Saturday the Iranian border guards identified two teams of the terrorist Mojahedin-e Khalq Organization (MKO) who had infiltrated from the Iraqi territory to sabotage in the oil pipelines in Musian area, west of Iran. The terrorists opened fire when the guards chased them and during the clash two MKO agents were killed and two border guards were wounded. Chasing the terrorists, Iranian border guards attacked an MKO base early on Sunday dealing heavy blows on them.

The MKO terrorist grouplet has launched several terrorist operations inside Iran during the recent months including the June 20 bomb blast at the holy shrine of Imam Reza (AS), murder of Christian pastors, several explosions and sabotages at Iranian oil pipelines and attack on border-dwelling tribesmen.

The Foreign Ministry summoned Iraqi Charge d'Affaires Raji al-Sadun on Monday and informed him of Iran's strong protest over Baghdad's support for the MKO. Iraqi Defence Minister Ali Hassan al-Majid officially announced on October 5 that the MKO terrorists have become members of the Iraqi Ba'th army.

MKO Blamed for Explosions

LD0811111294 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1030 GMT 8 Nov 94

[FBIS Translated Text] The explosion of two bombs planted by the terrorist Mojahedin-e Khalq Organization [MKO] killed two people in the southern districts of Tehran. The blasts occurred in Feda'ian-e Eslam Street and Chit-Sazi Square last night. A city bus and a wall of a silo were damaged.

A security official announced that investigaions are currently in progress to discover those responsible. The results will be announced subsequently.

This action by the terrorist MKO followed their efforts of the past few months to carry out a series of terrorist operations inside the country. The bomb planted in the holy shrine of Imam Reza [in Mashhad on 20 June] was an example of these operations.

Last Saturday, the border guards of the Islamic Republic of Iran identified two terrorist MKO teams that had infiltrated the country and planned to blow up the oil pipelines in Musian. The border guards killed a number of them and arrested several others.

Commentary Justifies Actions Against MKO

NC0711203394 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran in Arabic 1750 GMT 7 Nov 94

[Political commentary]

[FBIS Translated Text] Reports from the Iran-Iraq border indicate that four members of the terrorist hypocrites' gang [reference to Mojahedin-e Khalq Organization—MKO] infiltrated Iranian territory on Saturday to carry out subversive acts and destroy oil pipes and installations. The vigilant Iranian border guards confronted the group before it was able to commit any subversive act and two of its members died.

This group's members were supposed to join a man called Mujtaba Waysi in Iran so that he could supervise their subversive acts. In an interview with journalists, Mujtaba Waysi admitted that his mission was to carry out subversive operations against economic installations, including oil pipelines and fields that have been reconstructed in the border region in Ilam Governorate, namely in the Musian area of Deh Laran city, 245 km south of Ilam city.

The Iranian border forces not only foiled the hypocrites' terrorist operations inside the Iranian territories but also used heavy weapons to bombard the gang's base inside Iraqi territory in a defense measure in line with world and regional standards.

We note here that one of the articles of the accord signed at the end of the eight years of the Iraqi war that was imposed on Iran stipulated a permanent calm on the joint border, but the Iraqi regime has ignored the provisions of this accord many times by supplying the hypocrites' gang with weapons. The Iraqi regime also sent the hypocrites to the Iranian border to implement subversive operations.

The latest attempt to carry out subversive acts against Iranian oil installations is yet another example of the Iraqi regime's violation of the cease-fire through the gang of hypocrites.

In retaliation for this attempt, the Iranian border forces shelled the hypocrites' base, situated 80 km deep into Iraqi territory. After waging two failed wars in the Persian Gulf, quelling the Shiites in southern Iraq, and losing its sovereignty over Iraq's northern areas, Saddam's regime seems to be looking for a solution to the country's crisis outside of the Iraqi border. It would be best for this regime, which faces numerous problems both on the world and regional levels, to stop harassing Iran and playing the exposed card of the hypocrites and to contemplate developing bilateral ties with its neighbors. Officials of the Iranian Government are all ears to hear evidence that the Iraqis understand and realize this notion, if they are sincere.

Mojahed Radio Criticizes BBC, Regime

NC0711211494 (Clandestine) Voice of Mojahed in Persian 1800 GMT 7 Nov 94

[Monitored in progress]

[FBIS Translated Text] ...at the height of spewing such ridiculous homilies, the decrepit clerics, who cannot tolerate the growing progress and prestige of the National Resistance [of the Mojahedin-e Khalq Organization], fired Scud-B missiles at the Ashraf base.

According to experts, such an intensive attack using long-range Scud-B missiles is rare, even during the course of the eight-year Iran-Iraq war. With such an attack the hapless clerics have proved that a terrorist attack such as the mortar shelling of last month or the aerial attack that was carried out in 1992-93 does not have any effect on the prestige and vigilance of the National Liberation Army [NLA].

Therefore, in the face of the current situation between the Resistance and the regime, strategic arms have to be used, which is what they have just done. It is here that the cohorts, sycophants, and loudspeakers of the regime have once again been disgraced and they do not have any recourse except to talk nonsense.

Ayatollah BBC and the Persian-speaking anti-Iranian lackeys who are officially and unofficially employed by it [words indistinct] resorted to dissemination of ramblings with no head or tail, which only served to further expose the ayatollah of London [reference to BBC] and its employees, the aforementioned radio presented another of its servile mercenaries known as Shams Ha'eri last night. [passage indistinct]

Another is Baqer Mo'in, a Persian-speaking lackey who has played a direct role in these years; that is, he is a contemptible servant of colonialism. During the aerial bombing of the Ashraf base in 1371 [year beginning 21 March 1992] by the [words indistinct]. He traveled abroad under the cloak of the mullahs, and after obtaining the necessary funds he wrote an article in a British magazine on the blessings of the ayatollah BBC.

However, the other pawn, Shams Ha'eri, has extensive relations with the espionage and terrorism apparatus of the clerical regime. In the past year, the MOJAHED publication has frequently exposed his past. The clerics' diatribes against the Mojahedin and the Iranian Resistance have been carried, quoting him in the foreign publications of the regime.

Therefore, as usual, ayatollah BBC only has a handful of colonial servants or executioner-type disciples or the clerics' SAVAK hirelings for mudslinging against the

Iranian Resistance up its sleeve. With such page boys and minions, when ayatollah BBC once again made a dastardly attempt to project the Iranian Resistance as inconsequential when the recent missile attack was made unsuccessfully by the clerical regime against the NLA base, it should have paid attention to the extraordinary political straits of the enemy and all its supporters and loudspeakers. This is because this question and basic contradiction arises: What kind of a force is the NLA of Iran that, according to the claims of ayatollah BBC and its quislings, it does not have a popular or a military base? It is not worth being considered as an alternative or replacement for the current regime and is worse than that regime. Its forces and combatants have been scattered and, according to the mullahs' claims, they have been killed or disbanded. So, why is it that the clerical regime needs to combat them with strategic weapons of mass destruction?

If one were to ask ayatollah BBC and the regime's minions these questions, they would state once again out of sheer (?obstinance) that the Iranian regime attacked the NLA with missiles, even though it does not consider it a threat to itself. This is reminiscent of that dim-witted peasant who had been arrested for possession of gunpowder but had insisted that it was a consignment of cumin seeds! A quantity of the gunpowder was put on his beard and set on fire but he went on insisting loudly: I told you these are cumin seeds!

Now after the unsuccessful missile attack by the regime, ayatollah BBC and the anti-Iranian Persian speakers who are its cohorts and whose noses and beards have been burned are once again whining: Did we not say that the Iranian regime does not consider the NLA a threat to itself? However, this litany-chanting only exposes the enemies of the Iranian people, who are wallowing in a quagmire. The lowliness and baseness of a handful of anti-Iranian misanthropic hooligans [words indistinct].

Students Demonstrate Against UN, U.S.

LD0311112094 Tehran IRNA in English 1105 GMT 3 Nov 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, Nov. 3, IRNA—More than 800 college students on Thursday [3 November] held a gathering outside the U.N. office in Tehran in protest at a green light given by the U.N. to the U.S. to maintain its military forces in the Persian Gulf. The protesters chanted "Death to the U.S." and "Death to Israel" slogans during their demonstration.

At the end of the two hour protest gathering, a resolution was read by the demonstrators accusing the U.N. of being "a tool in hands of the U.S." for suppression of Muslim nations and other free loving people of the world.

Grand Ayatollah Araki in 'Good' Condition

LD0811115094 Tehran IRNA in English 1126 GMT 8 Nov 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, Nov. 8 IRNA—The health condition of Grand Ayatollah Mohammad 'Ali Araki was described by his son Ahmad Moslehi Araki as good Tuesday [8 November] morning. He said that the grand ayatollah's condition has remained unchanged since Monday. He told IRNA that no decision has been made to discharge the grand ayatollah from the Rajaie Hospital, adding that Ayatollah Araki would be transferred to Qom if allowed by the doctors. The grand ayatollah was admitted to the hospital on October 23.

Editorial Discounts Claim of Media Censorship

NC0311114094 Tehran TEHRAN TIMES in English 30 Oct 94 p 2

[Editorial: "Believe It or Not"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The Islamic Republic has been a target of accusations of error, ineptitude, bias and even outright favoritism from elements both inside the country and abroad from the moment of its birth. The latest of such propaganda is the hue and cry raised by the Western media claiming that "a group of Iran's intellectuals have accused their government of censorship and called for an end to such practices."

What came as a surprise is that this statement was attributed to the foreign media and, supposedly, it had been signed by 134 writers, poets and literary figures living in Iran.

Lest our silence be construed as an admission, let it be known that we intentionally delayed our opinion on the issue for reasons of fairness and justice. More than a week has passed. We hear no news of any undemocratic behavior turned against the accusers by law enforcement forces reported from any side.

What is not clear is whether the signatures in the letter are genuine or whether they even exist. We give them the benefit of the doubt and suppose they are factual. But is it not also a fact that they still enjoy life in the freedom which they have exercised, in their own "lifestyle", without harassment? Who then can claim that there is no real freedom in Iran because of government censorship and "harassment"?

The London-based International Pen claims that it had received a copy of the letter and voiced support for the "oppressed intellectuals."

It is not our business here to disclose the real motive behind the letter or the names appearing therein as we are not an inquisition. We do believe the public has a right to be cleared of the issue and so we call on the concerned authorities to unveil the facts as soon as possible.

We do have an open secret to share. Most of the names appearing in this letter (without admission of their genuineness) were connected to the old guards of communism. These so-called intellectuals could not even present a single such letter demanding freedom of expression from the defunct Soviet empire which is now down and similar remaining systems are counting on their last breath.

This group lived ostentatiously in Iran during the monarchical system where the Shah's secret and dreaded police the SAVAK, used to check each and every page of any periodical before it went to the press. Did they ever object? Of course not. It worked to promote their interests.

Anyone who closely observes and follows the Iranian media is familiar with the criticism directed to the government and, in many cases, even personally against President Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani. The dailies are full of these criticisms directed against the government, ministries or government organizations.

The Islamic Republic does not pretend to have a government that tolerates unlimited freedom of the press where writers, poets and others are allowed to write unsocial, immoral, seditious articles or print deviant, immoral pictures and the like. If the censorship which these 134 signatories mean is directed at such kind of press materials, then we are proud to say that the Islamic Republic has no such freedom of expression and legal actions will definitely be taken against them. Make no mistake about it. If the law does not go against such people, they will be made to account by the people who sacrificed enormously to make the freedoms that we now enjoy under the Islamic system a reality.

As I write these lines, I declare under oath that since the day the Islamic Republic was born I have had the experience of receiving friendly complaints from officials and, acting on the basis of misinformation, I made faulty judgments in my writings. But believe it or not, nobody ever coerced me into writing one way or the other.

Ministry Denies Israeli Report on Production

LD0311134794 Tehran IRNA in English 1237 GMT 3 Nov 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, 3 Nov (IRNA)—The Ministry of Industries has denied a report broadcast on the Israeli radio that industrial and production activities in Iran has come to a halt as a result of the measures taken by the Iranian Government.

In a statement released here Wednesday [2 November], the ministry presented some statistics contrary to the Israeli radio claim, production of many consumer and manufactured goods has showed substantial increase this year compared to the preceding year. In the month of Shahrivar (August 23-September 22), it said, production of vegetable oil increased by 22 percent reaching 51,892 tons compared to the preceding month.

The statement also noted that in the said month, some 1,512,000 tons of cement were produced domestically, up by 10 percent compared to the month of Mordard (July 23-August 22). In the said period, added the statement, the production of tyre, medicine and detergents rose by 51, 30 and 30 percent respectively.

Ties Between Officials, Bakhtiar Killers Denied

LD0511115294 Tehran IRNA in English 0942 GMT 5 Nov 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, Nov. 5, IRNA—A spokesman for Iran's Foreign Ministry here Saturday [5 November] categorically denied allegations made by French media on relationship of Sarhaddi and Hendi, two suspected of having hand in murder of Shahpur Bakhtiar, with senior Iranian officials. He said that Zeinalabedin Sarhaddi and Masoud Hendi had no relationship with President Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani and founder of the Islamic Republic of Iran, the late Imam Khomeyni. Certain pressure groups should not be allowed to raise such accusations and unfounded claims under circumstances in which the court is investigating the case.

The French news agency (AFP) had earlier claimed that Masoud Hendi is a relative of the late Imam Khomeyni and Sarhaddi is a grandson of President Rafsanjani's sister or brother.

Velayati on Need for 'Independent' European Policies

LD0411081694 Tehran IRNA in English 0730 GMT 4 Nov 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, 4 Nov (IRNA)—Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati here Thursday [3 November] underlined the need for independent policies by European countries towards the Middle East region. He made the remark while addressing the two-day assembly of experts of European research centers in Tehran in which he underscored the importance of the role Iran played in the settlement of regional problems.

Referring to historic relations between Iran and Europe, Velayati elaborated on the future of Iran-Europe ties and the possibility for further expansion of mutual cooperation under the present condition. The foreign minister stressed on the importance of such expert meetings for providing an opportunity to study ties between Iran and other countries.

The assembly of European experts of political and international studies, sponsored by political and international studies of the Foreign Ministry, ended its work Thursday afternoon. Experts and heads of research intstitutes from Germany, France, Britain, Italy and ambassadors of those countries in Tehran attended the gathering.

Commentary on Relations With Europe

LD0311130594 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran in English 1130 GMT 3 Nov 94

[Unattributed commentary]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The heads and directors of the international studies centers of Germany, France, Britain, and Italy, in a joint session attended by the experts of the Institute for Political and International Studies of Iran's Foreign Affairs Ministry, IPIS, discussed Iran's ties with Europe on Wednesday, November the 2d.

The session, sponsored by the IPIS and attended by Iran's ambassadors in these four countries, opened with a speech by Mr. [Abbas] Maleki, Iran's Foreign Ministry deputy in charge of training and research affairs. In a part of his speech, Mr. Maleki, while referring to the historical background of ties between Iran and Europe, said that regrettably these ties had failed to bring the necessary results in economic and cultural aspects.

Development of ties between Iran and Europe is among the subjects which have constantly been attached importance by the Islamic Republic of Iran [IRI] and European officials over recent years. According to political observers, importance of preservation and development of Europe's ties with the IRI is something already established. There is also no doubt in the fact that the IRI is desirous to establishing independent ties duly respecting mutual interests with the European states.

The fact that brings this notion closer to reality is the attitude of the majority of the European states towards America's political demands for pressuring the IRI. Over the preceding years, especially during the past few months, Iran has managed to defeat America's political attempts to isolate Iran in Europe.

Within the framework of Iran-Europe ties, there have however existed certain exceptions. Among them, mention can be made of the type of relations between Iran and Britain. In this respect, recent comments of Mr. Douglas Hurd to the effect that his country is desirous of having normal ties with Iran can to some extent show a more vivid framework of future ties between Iran and Britain.

But some unrealistic posturing, such as the recent statement of the British ambassador in Kuwait, who tried to depict Iran as a threat to the regional states' interests, have caused contradictions in this policy.

The foreign policy of the IRI, however, gives significance to the promotion of cordial ties based on respecting the rights of nations and observance of the reciprocal interests. Europe, too, is no exception to this general rule.

It is on this account that the IRI—barring the Zionist regime, which has occupied the Palestinian Muslims' lands, and also the U.S. Administration, which has an arrogant and aggressive nature—has expanded its ties with all the world states at a normal and cordial level.

At the same time, this trend shows the reality that Iran, in its ties with the world states, has never accepted any precondition and will not compromise with any country over the principles of the Islamic revolution.

Egyptian Delegation Reportedly To Visit Tehran

LD0311220194 Tehran IRNA in English 1813 GMT 3 Nov 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Athens, Nov. 3, IRNA—A high-ranking Foreign Ministry delegation from Egypt is to visit the Islamic Republic of Iran soon to continue talks with Iranian officials to improve bilateral relations, reported Saudi weekly 'AL-MAJALLAH.'

Iranian Deputy Foreign Minister 'Abbas Maleki paid a visit to Cairo last month following an agreement by the foreign ministers of the two Muslim countries to begin a series of meetings between the officials of the two countries to push relations forward, said the magazine in its latest issue.

Iranian Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati met his Egyptian counterpart 'Amr Musa at the sidleines of the United Nations General Assembly in New York in October.

Maleki discussed with Egyptian Government officials ways to promote bilateral economic, cultural and religious ties, and to raise the diplomatic representation in Cairo and Tehran to the ambassadorial level, said AL-MAJALLAH which is published in London. At the present diplomatic ties between Iran and Egypt are at the level of interests sections only.

Taheri, Libyan Official View ECO, OPEC

LD0211211894 Tehran IRNA in English 2016 GMT 2 Nov 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, Nov. 2, IRNA—The deputy secretary general of the Economic Cooperation Organization (ECO), Iran's Taheri, reviewed ECO's cooperation with the provisional secretary general of the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC), Salim al-Badri here today.

Al-Badri, who is Libya's Minister of Oil and Energy [title as received] welcomed the suggestion and observed that the potentials for cooperation between the two important organization should be studied and identified for implementation. Iran, which is an OPEC member, is one of the three founding members of the 10-nation ECO.

Talks on OPEC Secretary General Viewed

LD0111140994 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1106 GMT 1 Nov 94

[Unattributed commentary]

[FBIS Translated Text] On his visit to Tehran and in his meetings with our country's economic and political officials, 'Abdallah Salim al-Badri, the Libyan oil minister and the acting OPEC secretary general, is discussing issues related to OPEC's next meeting. He has also come to our country at the head of a high-ranking delegation of Libyan oil officials to familiarize himself with the capacities of the Islamic Republic of Iran's oil industry in terms of expanding oil cooperation.

'Abdallah al-Badri also visited a number of Persian Gulf littoral Arab countries two months ago to discuss those countries' views and positions on the agenda of the forthcoming OPEC meeting.

Following the completion of the term of Indonesia's Subroto as secretary general, Libya's oil minister, acting as OPEC's temporary secretary general, has been trying since the month of Khordad [beginning 22 May] to pave the way for agreement between members on the issues facing them. Appointing a secretary general for the organization and stipulating production ceilings for OPEC members during the next Christian year are on the agenda of the meeting of the OPEC ministers. The meeting is due to take place at the end of the current month [ending 21 November] on the island of Bali in Indonesia.

At the OPEC meeting during the month of Khordad, the Islamic Republic of Iran and Venezuela named their candidates for the post of secretary general. However, since it was impossible to select a secretary general at that meeting due to an absence of unanimity, the Libyan oil minister accepted the responsibility on a temporary basis so that agreement could be reached at the meeting in Indonesia on the choice of secretary general. It should also be said that, last month, the Nigerian Government named (Dr. Loghman), the former Nigerian oil minister, as a candidate for the post of secretary general so that if a unanimous agreement cannot be reached on a choice between the candidate from Iran or Venezuela, he can take over.

However, economic analysts believe that, as is the case with other international organizations, OPEC members will be able to solve the problem of selecting a secretary general through discussion and negotiation, and they will take another step forward in consolidating that organization's strength.

The other issue which is on the OPEC meeting's agenda is the debate about deciding the organization's production ceiling for the next Christian year. From the point of view of the analysts, the remarks made by oil officials from member countries suggest agreement between all the members that the current OPEC production ceiling should be rolled over. It seems likely, therefore, that at least for the first quarter of 1994 [as heard], the current production ceiling of 24.52 million barrels per day will be renewed so that the oil price level will approach the OPEC base rate; that is, $21 per barrel.

In this same connection, President Hashemi-Rafsanjani said in his meeting with the Libyan oil minister: OPEC member countries should bear in mind the interests of oil-producing countries and adopt a reasonable and coordinated policy toward increasing and consolidating the price of oil on the international markets.

RESALAT Reflects on White House Incident

NC0311202794 Tehran RESALAT in Persian 31 Oct 94 p 16

[Political commentary: "Lessons the Americans Should Learn"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The White House in the United States was trespassed against once again in the past two months. In the latest incident, a person armed with automatic weapons fired 20 shots on the U.S. White House. Nearly two months ago, an American pilot carried out a suicidal action by ramming his small plane against the White House wall, which killed him and caused astonishment among U.S. security experts!

Even though the U.S. echelons issued statements immediately after the incidents that the two attackers were deranged, they were not able to provide a convincing response as to why these incidents took place in the most protected areas of the world.

Ostensibly, U.S. security officials, whose prestige has suffered immense blows from these recent incidents, are reluctant to express opinions and have maintained silence, but in similar cases (in other countries, of course) they feel very emotionally affected and accuse the countries of censorship. Except for pronouncing the culprits of these incidents in the White House demented, they have not shed any light on the incidents for the American public.

Of course, U.S. officials shed "crocodile tears" on what they term censorship in other countries but maintain their silence in similar cases, such as the recent incidents in the White House compound, the suicides by the U.S. soldiers in Haiti, and the massacre of the followers of David Koresh in Texas.

Before embarking on intervention in other countries, U.S. officials should concern themselves with their own decaying society, which is in the throes of disintegration and in which the signs of rot are clearly perceptible. By creating crises in other countries, they cannot conceal the identity crisis prevalent in American society, which is taking the country on a downhill course toward complete destruction.

Stalemate in Tajikistan Talks Discussed

NC0411124194 Tehran RESALAT in Persian 30 Oct 94 p 16

[Commentary by Reza Sokhansanj: "Tajikistan and the Islamabad Talks"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Following nine days of talks between representatives of the Tajikistan Government and the opposition in Islamabad, the sessions are to conclude today without any specific results.

The government delegation is being headed by Dostiyev, deputy speaker of the Tajikistan supreme council, while the head of the opposition team is Turadzhonzada. Two rounds of talks were held earlier in Moscow and Tehran. The talks in Tehran culminated last month in a temporary cease-fire between the two warring sides.

Reports from Islamabad indicate that the government representatives have adopted a more intransigent approach toward the opposition, which has resulted in prolonging the talks and in reducing the prospects of their success to a certain extent.

The Tajikistan Government has sent its representatives to the negotiating table at a time when it is making arrangements for nationwide elections in that country! The Islamabad session viewed in the context of Tajikistan's future is worth assessing in light of the following points:

1. Perhaps one of the reasons for the intransigence and rigidity of the government delegation at the Islamabad talks is that general elections are scheduled for 6 November, as promised by the Dushanbe Government. These elections have not been endorsed by the CSCE, which has distanced itself from them! The results of such elections are already clear: Rakhmonov will be the president once again!

2. The lack of political will is one of the reasons for the problems in the Islamabad talks, especially among the members of the government delegation. It appears that the delegation sent by the Tajikistan Government does not have any initiative or power to forge ahead in the talks.

3. It is certain that the notion that victory can be gained without the presence of the opposition and their participation in the future government of Tajikistan is an ephemeral and erroneous one.

4. The release of the incarcerated prisoners, the return of the strugglers to their homes and hearths, the elimination of impediments in their path, and the prevention of persecution and harassment of the people are rightful and lawful demands. Ways must be found to achieve these demands.

5. It is certain that the cessation or failure of the talks will not be favored by Russia, as this would endanger the security of the region and transform Tajikistan into another Afghanistan. The intransigence of the two sides should give way to flexibility and restraint.

Dutch Official Meets Velayati, Other Officials

LD0311093394 Tehran IRNA in English 0813 GMT 3 Nov 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, Nov. 3, IRNA—Director General for Political Affairs at the Foreign Ministry of the Netherlands Joris Vos here Wednesday met with Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati and handed him a message from the Dutch Foreign Minister Hans Von Mierlo.

In his message the Dutch foreign minister has expressed hope for further promotion of Iran-Netherlands relations. The visiting Dutch official also appreciated Iran's efforts in finding a solution to the current problems in Bosnia-Herzegovina.

Foreign Minister Velayati welcomed the positive developments in relations between Iran and the Netherlands and also briefed the official on Iran's efforts for arresting the crisis in the former Yugoslavia. Velayati expressed hope that Iran's efforts would eventually help to bring peace in the Balkans.

In another development, Deputy Foreign Minister in charge of West-European Affairs 'Ali Ahani and the Dutch official reviewed bilateral relations between the two countries especially in cultural, economic and parliamentary areas.

In the meeting Vos indicated the interest of his country in developing relations with Iran including in the area of air transport. He said his visit to Iran is an indication of the interest of his government in developing relations with Iran. Ahani expressed hope that during the forthcoming visit to Iran of the managing director of the civil aviation of the Netherlands outlooks for cooperation in that area would be studied.

He also said that parliamentary relations between the two countries would help bring the thoughts of the peoples of the two countries closer together and called for closer cooperation in that area as well.

The Dutch official also held talks with the Iranian Deputy Foreign Minister in charge of Europe and America, Mahmud Va'ezi. Va'ezi appreciated recent developments in the relations between the two countries and also discussed mutual cooperation in future.

DPRK Ambassador Calls For Closer Relations

LD0211213294 Tehran IRNA in English 2019 GMT 2 Nov 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, Nov. 2, IRNA—The Democratic People's Republic of Korea's (DPRK) ambassador to Tehran, Choe Yong-no, here on Wednesday [2 November] said the two countries could expand their relations in various fields in view of the commonalities they share.

Choe, who was speaking to head of the Tehran-Pyongyang friendship group Khodakaram Jalali, said close cooperation between Tehran and Pyongyang was age-old. Jalali also referred to the growing cooperation between the two countries and called for further activation of the joint economic commission.

Iranian Envoy Meets With DPRK Ministers

LD0211221794 Tehran IRNA in English 2033 GMT 2 Nov 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Beijing, Nov. 2, IRNA—The Iranian ambassador to Pyongyang Seyyed Morteza Mirheydari had separate meetings in Pyongyang today with the Democratic People's Republic of Korea's (DPRK) minister of post and telecommunications and the minister of mines.

In his meeting with the post and telecommunications minister of DPRK, Mirheydari said Iran is ready to carry out a letter of understanding between the two countries in the area of telecommunications. In his other meeting with the DPRK minister of mines, Mirheydari discussed Iran's exports of certain mineral to DPRK among them zinc and copper concentrates.

Paper Considers Relations With Iraq

NC0811102694 Tehran ABRAR in Persian 31 Oct 94 pp 1, 2, 11

[Editorial: "What Should Be Done With Iraq?"]

[FBIS Translated Text] With the conclusion of U.S. President Bill Clinton's visit, controversy continues on the outcome of the chain of regional visits. Some circles believe that the visit to Kuwait and Saudi Arabia was simply for show. The visits to Egypt, Jordan, Syria, and Israel were more pertinent to practical U.S. diplomacy. However, there is no doubt that the Kuwaitis and Saudis would agree. This is especially true since Kuwait still sees Saddam Husayn in the seat of power, and Saudi Arabia has not obtained any tangible victories after expending a few billion dollars on the deployment of troops for Desert Storm.

During the visit by Clinton to Kuwait and Saudi Arabia, regional observers deemed collective Persian Gulf security to be a priority in the talks. Naturally, there was mention of Iran and Iraq. The United States cannot tolerate the viewpoints of these two regional countries and, therefore, has placed the policy of what it terms dual containment on its agenda.

The presence of the Islamic Republic of Iran and the Iraqi regime in the region—regardless of international or even regional issues—is pertinent to bilateral relations as well. Accordingly, some domestic circles believe that the convergence of Tehran and Baghdad can neutralize U.S. policies in the region. In principle, Iraq has an anti-imperialistic stance, and, if its presence in the region is not very advantageous for the Islamic Republic of Iran, it is not very detrimental either.

Holding such a viewpoint is tantamount to supporting Iraq in the Persian Gulf war. The question "What exactly was Saddam?" is a historical discussion; regarding "what has he become," the Islamic Republic of Iran has a completely strategic perspective based on its national interests.

The Iraqis have repeatedly proved that not only are they very fickle friends, they are equally fickle as foes. Saddam Husayn's current differences with the United States and even with Europe have everything to do with time and place. In the Persian Gulf war, the Europeans completely forsook Saddam Husayn and presented all the "intelligence" that they had sold to Baghdad to the United States, so that they could reclaim it in the name of disarmament.

However, Saddam Husayn has initiated a new chapter in his relations with Europe. He also sent an invitation to Kuwaiti officials for direct talks, saying that he would make reparations, even though Iranian prisoners are still languishing in the Iraqi camps. In the seventies and eighties there were numerous instances of breached promises by the Ba'thist regime ruling Iraq, but the Iraqis started the nineties differently. If they mention friendship, it is because they are forced to, and if this state of affairs ends, the Iraqis will revert to their old ways. Even in the latest maneuvers staged by the Iraqis on the Kuwaiti border and in the most sensitive circumstances, Nizar Hamdun referred to the Islamic Republic of Iran as the main objective of the dual containment policy.

If we are not politically obliged to establish relations with Baghdad or to continue discussions on Resolution 598, Iraq should be the one to expedite matters. How can we rely on the Iraqi regime? Why should the final steps not be taken by the Iraqis?

Friendship with Iraq, the country that imposed eight years of war on our country, should be on our terms, not those of Baghdad or the region. Convergence toward, and friendship with, our enemy of yesteryear should not be approached hastily so that the Iraqis will be grateful and not behave as if they are doing us a favor.

If Saddam Husayn wants friendship with the Islamic Republic of Iran, he should state it clearly and should realize that the situation in the region is not to Baghdad's benefit.

Importance of 'Anti-U.S. Struggles' Discussed

NC0411205394 Tehran JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI in Persian 1 Nov 94 p 15

[Editorial: "America—The Main Enemy"]

[FBIS Translated Text] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful.

The U.S. Secretary of State Christopher said in a speech at Georgetown University that the Islamic Republic of Iran is the greatest supporter of terrorism and is opposed to the trend toward peace in the Middle East. As always, he called for stepping up pressure on Tehran.

These statements, which coincided with President Clinton's visit to some Arab countries in the Middle East and occupied Palestine, indicate the importance of anti-U.S. struggles in Iran, the region, and in the Arab world. It is obvious that, in the lexicon of the U.S. echelons, "terrorism" is the term used for the defense of legitimate rights. Their objective in promoting "peace in the Middle East" is to impose a compromise with Israel so that the Zionists may reign supreme over the destinies of Islamic countries, especially the Arab nations in the region.

While Christopher's threats are nothing but a repetition of the gibberish already spewed by his predecessors, his remarks merit attention because the United States considers the Islamic Republic of Iran the base of a worldwide Islamic movement. It firmly believes that the Islamic Revolution is the most important impediment in the path of the ill-omened objectives which the Archsatan has against the Middle East region in particular and the Islamic world in general. This is the meaning of Christopher's remark that the Islamic Republic of Iran is the greatest supporter of terrorism and the strongest opponent of Middle East peace.

Thus, the sensitivity of the anti-U.S. marches on the day of the struggle against the powers of world arrogance this year is quite clear. During these marches we should shout slogans of "Death to America" to prove that the Iranian nation still considers the United States the mother of all evils of the century and the number one enemy of nations.

The cries of "Death to America" by the Iranian nation during this march will drive home to the feeble-minded U.S. officials that the Islamic Republic of Iran is stronger and more forceful than it was in the days of the occupation of the U.S. den of spies in Tehran and that it continues to be prepared for a struggle against the powers of world arrogance, the main center of which is the White House in Washington.

Objectives of Clinton's Middle East Visit Viewed

NC0411182494 Tehran JAHAN-E ESLAM in Persian 26 Oct 94 pp 1, 2

[Editorial: "The Objectives of Clinton's Visit and the Vulnerability of U.S. Foreign Policy"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Clinton's visit to the Middle East can be seen as an expansion of the activities that the United States has embarked upon to push its objectives in the Middle East, which are currently facing problems. Christopher's remarks on 24 October indicated a disturbance in U.S. diplomacy. Christopher addressed a group of students from U.S. universities on the eve of Clinton's Middle East visit and stated that, under current circumstances, practical support of the Arab peace with Israel is vital and that the Arabs should support Israel with all their resources.

Christopher's expression of anxiety stems from the wave of fear that has gripped the Zionists and indicates the depth of the Tel Aviv regime's vulnerability in the face of continuing Islamic struggles and public opposition to the peace trend.

The failure of U.S. foreign policy to forge ahead with its objective of a compromise between the Arabs and Israel has elicited criticism regarding Christopher's performance, and powerful pro-Zionist factions have repeatedly called for his removal. However, Clinton has supported giving him more time. Under the current circumstances, Clinton's visit to the Middle East has the following objectives:

1. On the eve of U.S. local elections, Clinton has decided to enhance the trend toward Arab-Israeli peace to elicit the support of powerful Jewish factions in the United States, to fulfill his promises to end tensions in Tel Aviv, and to create an enduring security in the region, which would guarantee the long-term interests of the Zionists.

2. The resistance from Lebanon and Syria to the Zionist proposals for separate talks with Tel Aviv has evolved into a major problem. By beginning his Middle East visit in Damascus [as published], Clinton is seeking to give the necessary assurances to Hafiz al-Asad and create special conditions to convince Syria.

According to experts, the lack of flexibility on the part of Tel Aviv toward Syria's demands has caused Hafiz al-Asad to stick to his previous stand. Clinton wants to pave the way for Tel Aviv's talks with Syria and Lebanon with new promises and more guarantees. This can be considered a trump card being held by Clinton against the coming U.S. elections. On the domestic front, Clinton's position is rather unfavorable, and his popularity is waning daily.

3. During this visit, Clinton is not just playing broker for the Zionists by expanding the trend toward compromise and by exerting greater pressure on the combatant Lebanese and Palestinian groups. He is also convinced that there are favorable conditions in the region to get the Persian Gulf Arabs to make extensive commercial and military purchases. If Clinton can promote arms sales in the region, he will receive greater support from the magnates of the weapons industries.

In any case, one should bear in mind that, in the course of this visit, Clinton will be in charge of organizing greater confrontation against the Islamic Republic of Iran—a country which will never accept the trend of peace between the Arabs and the Zionist regime—and will be seeking any possible means of whipping up the politico-propagandist scenario [preceding word in English] of the United States against Iran to reap political capital from it.

In fact, the above issues indicate in one way or the other the ineptitude and weakness of the Clinton administration in resolving domestic and foreign issues. According to experts, despite the efficiency Christopher is displaying in arranging political negotiations, Clinton and his advisers cannot comprehend realities, and this will cause Clinton to fail in his attempts to convince Syria and Lebanon to accept a bilateral peace with Israel.

'Treacherous' Jordan-Israel Treaty Reviewed

NC0311124394 Tehran TEHRAN TIMES in English 29 Oct 94 p 2

[Editorial: "Peace Treaty Will Heighten the Struggle"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Another treacherous peace treaty was signed on Wednesday, October 26. The peace treaty was signed between the occupiers of Palestine and the Traitor Husayn of Jordan, with the mediation of arrogant United States. The signing of the new peace treaty is a turning point in publicizing the covert relations between Jordan and the Zionists.

What is the reaction of the Jordanian people to the peace treaty? The first thing to be reviewed is the status of Jordan's government and nation. There are signs of a growing rift between Jordan's government and its people. The signing of the peace treaty is a defeat for the Jordanian people and a victory for the Zionists.

The most serious organizational threat now facing the government of Jordan is the Ikhwan al-Muslemin. The so-called peace treaty will only fortify the Ikhwan al-Muslemin.

Hereafter, King Husayn's presence at home will only increase the scope of the conflict between the government and the people. According to the latest reports, an increasing crisis is observed in Jordan, for which anti-riot police and military units are now stationed in pivotal spots of Amman.

President Clinton has come to the signing ceremony only thirteen days before U.S. elections. The president is attempting to put a better gloss on his image at home, for he knows that the Democrats are in danger of losing in the House and Senate.

The Zionist regime might clinch a sizable victory in the short-term, but it cannot endure in the long-term. The compromise between the PLO and the Zionist regime has led to the struggle of Hamas, which indicates that the struggle is not abating, but intensifying.

In an interview with ABC news, the former Zionist president called Hamas's threat to 'Arafat very serious, that 'Arafat is faced with an ever-increasing danger from Hamas; he is aware of it, but does not know how to handle it.

Despite peace efforts, the prospects of peace are dark and gloomy. The continuation of the peace process will only foment further struggle between those who consider the Zionist occupation of Palestine just and those who don't.

Egypt's Role in Peace Process Criticized

NC0411182194 Tehran JAHAN-E ESLAM in Persian 26 Oct 94 p 12

[Unattributed commentary: "The Bleak Prospects for the Shaykhs"]

[FBIS Translated Text] It has been reported that the leader of the Liberal Party of Egypt published an article in the AL-AHRAR newspaper, which is the mouthpiece of the party, explaining that security in the Persian Gulf cannot be established without Iran's inclusion and has lauded the meticulous policies of the Iranian leaders.

Even though the Liberal Party does not enjoy a very firm position in Egypt, the dissemination of such a view there could be because of certain issues, the most important of which is related to the progress in the Middle East compromise talks.

Egypt was the first country to sit at the peace table with the Zionist regime in 1978. At that time, this action effectively extricated Egypt from its economic crises and facilitated its entry into the sphere of political activity in the West. It resulted in Egypt being rewarded as the first colleague of the United States and the Zionist regime. With the lapse of 15 years, the Camp David accord has lost its importance in view of the consecutive accords between the Arab shaykhs and obsequious officials of other countries. On the other hand, the possibility of achieving a peace accord between Syria and the Zionist regime has been reduced.

Therefore, the sentiment that is proliferating in Egyptian public opinion is that even though the Camp David accord helped to create favorable conditions for the Egyptian regime in the short term, the curtain is about to fall on this peace scenario in the Middle East. And now that Egypt's role in this play is coming to an end, it is seeking a new role for itself.

On the other hand, the fact that this sentiment is being held in Egyptian public opinion is an indication of the dark prospects of the Arab-Israel accord for all countries. This is because Egypt is the largest Arab country, which professes to be a leader of the Arab world and has realized this fact at the end of this road.

Thus, other less important countries that are awaiting their turn in line for peace with the Zionist regime today should pay attention to the depth of the issue. Otherwise, they will also reach this juncture very soon. If after 15 years Egypt has reached this stage despite its expert political games, countries that do not have any planned diplomacy or experienced statesmanship and whose sole assets are some profligate shaykhs do not have a very long way to go before they reach this bleak prospect.

It has therefore been observed that such viewpoints in Egypt stem from the fact that the passage of time has proved to them that trust in the descendants of the Israelites yields nothing but losses in this world and the hereafter.

Possibility of Israeli Air Attack Considered

NC0311205194 Tehran RESALAT in Persian 26 Oct 94 pp 1, 16

[Editorial by Mohammad Kazem Anbarlu'i: "Political or Military Delirium!"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Radio Monte Carlo announced two nights ago that it is possible that Israel may attack Iran's strategic installations by air or by missiles. The radio stated that this might be in retaliation for the Tel Aviv explosion! Certain points merit mentioning on this matter:

1. There is no doubt that today the Zionist regime is reeling from the consecutive blows of Hamas as well as from the relentless unrest and demonstrations all over the occupied areas. However, the fact that at the height of its perplexity it should also spew delirious allegations is worth mulling over.

The declaration of an attack on Iran's strategic installations—amid the uproar of internal unrest in the occupied territories and the invigorating gusts of the zephyr of peace that have now metamorphosed into a tornado—appears to be in jest. However, revolutionary vigilance demands that we should take this absurd jesting seriously.

In the aftermath of the imposed [Iran-Iraq] war and the Persian Gulf war, the Islamic Republic of Iran emerged as a major military power in the region. Eight years of the imposed war, the acquisition of valuable military experience, and the great defense capability of Iran should be a warning to the enemies of Islam against even contemplating any aggression against our Islamic homeland (in any form) that would only bring a historical disgrace on them. This could be a new lesson for aggressors.

2. If we were to take the Radio Monte Carlo report seriously, it would mean that in the fever of this so-called peace trend that has encompassed the region, the Zionist entity is contemplating a full-fledged war. The birth of the usurpist Jerusalem regime has been engendered through war, bloodshed, and terrorism. Therefore, this regime cannot continue its existence without aggression and bloodshed.

Those who are preparing to greet Clinton today and to sign a peace accord in the Israeli-Jordanian border region should know that beneath the ubiquitous smile of the U.S. President lurks a "warring sneer." Therefore, those who are seeking to conceal the flames of an aggressive war in the region beneath the ashes of peace will be identified as traitors to the aspirations of the Muslims.

The Zionist regime needs peaceful borders more than ever before. The Arabs should not create this security belt around the Zionist regime by signing the so-called peace accords. This security belt is so important that it has dragged the U.S. President from across the oceans to the Israeli-Jordanian border merely to install a few meters of barbed wire!

Undoubtedly, in the event of the attack by despotic Israel, this few meters of barbed wire around the occupied territories would not impede any tit-for-tat action by the Islamic Republic of Iran against the occupied Jerusalem regime.

3. The announcement regarding an attack by the occupied Jerusalem regime on the skies above Iran is propounded from time to time on various pretexts directly or indirectly. The Zionist regime utters such deranged remarks each time it is unable to tackle the intifadah. The fact that Tel Aviv is seeking to crush an interminable and hallowed movement beyond its borders is nothing but an effort to mask the basic issue of its unstable security in the occupied territories.

Today the face of the Zionist system continues to be reddened by the firm blows dealt daily by the uprising of the Muslim people in the occupied areas. The torture and harassment of the people in the Zionist regime's dungeons, the firing by its soldiers on the Palestinian people in the streets, and the declaration of martial law in most areas has doubled the redness of the visage of this illegitimate system and any talk of human rights in the cabinet or parliament of the Zionist regime is nothing but a tasteless joke.

In any case, the talk by Radio Monte Carlo emphasizes the aggressive nature of the disgraceful rulers of the Zionist regime. We hope that the intifadah uprising will teach some wisdom to the despotic Israeli regime so that it refrains from making such demented remarks.

Commentary: Algeria Facing 'Bloody Revolution'

LD0311141794 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1101 GMT 3 Nov 94

[Unattributed commentary]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Our second commentary for today is about the renewed arrests of leaders of the Islamic Salvation Front [FIS] and the future of the crisis in Algeria, to which we draw your attention:

Just as it was predicted, the military rulers of Algeria detained and imprisoned the leaders of the FIS once again. [passage omitted] The last round of talks reached a deadlock at the beginning of this week. General Zeroual then blamed the Islamists for the failure of the government's efforts to resolve the crisis engulfing the country and threatened that he would intensify the repression of the people.

Some analysts believe that the shift in the stance of the ruling faction in Algeria stems from the victory of the military hard-liners over the moderate faction, which favors talks. But most analysts believe that the military rulers in Algeria showed that they favored talks only because they hoped that this would create a coalition of all non-Islamic forces to stand against the Islamists. At the same time, they hoped to create a split in the ranks of their opponents. But now that this ploy has failed, the ruling generals seem to prefer taking up their battle against the people.

This is obviously the worse thing they could do since it casts a bleaker shadow than before on the future of

Algeria's crisis. But if internal developments or external pressures do not lead to the removal of military hardliners from the arena, then a violent and bloody revolution surely awaits the fate of the Algerian nation.

Kuwaiti 'Apology' Regarded as 'Good Omen'

NC0311202594 Tehran RESALAT in Persian 25 Oct 94 p 16

[Political commentary: "Kuwait—An Apology After 15 Years"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The Kuwaiti foreign minister's recent stance was actually tantamount to a confession of mistakes committed by Kuwaiti diplomacy in 1980 when Iraqi forces attacked Iranian territory. But it is not clear if these confessions will prevent other mistakes from being repeated on other political issues in the region.

In an interview with DER SPIEGEL, Kuwaiti Foreign Minister Shaykh al-Ahmad al-Sabah adopted a just stance on the Islamic Republic of Iran, a stand rarely adopted by our Arab neighbors in the contemporary political calendar.

Praising Iran's support for Kuwait in Iraq's aggression in 1990, the Kuwaiti foreign minister admitted Iran's magnanimity in the field of political developments and also confessed that he considers his government's previous stance in support of Iraq in the 1979 military aggression against Iran to be a major political mistake, one that has been bothering the consciences of the Kuwaiti statesmen for the past 15 years.

The truth is that the magnanimity and goodwill displayed by Iran toward its neighbors has been described with spiteful adjectives for years by reactionary regional Arab rulers and western media and policymakers, who have used words to describe Iran's policies that have actually been an exact description of their own. Those policies were based on Machiavellian theory and the methods and policies used by old British colonialism and its heir after World War II, America. But possibly the years of resistance and steadfastness by the Muslim and revolutionary Iranian nation have paid off and are now opening up the vistas of goodwill in the world and the regional policies of the West and its supporters in the area.

The Government and Muslim nation of Iran considers the confessions of former mistakes by the head of Kuwaiti diplomacy to be a good omen. But what we want from the Kuwaiti Government is to prevent a repetition of similar mistakes and not to allow this new stance to sink into the eddy of temporary policies.

The issue of the three Iranian islands in the Persian Gulf may be a good political test for the Kuwaiti stance in the future. Actually, Kuwait's goodwill toward Iran should be sought on this issue.

Therefore, the Kuwaiti politicians should refrain from any wrong stance that will force them to make similar apologies in the future and to admit who was right from the start, since if justice and right are allowed to be trampled on for a long time, the only alternative to make up for this is an apology.

Commentary Views Importance of 'Popular Element'

NC0411115694 Tehran JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI in Persian 29 Oct 94 p 15

[Political commentary: "The Need to Comprehend the Nature of the Middle East Crisis"]

[FBIS Translated Text] U.S. President Bill Clinton's effort to achieve a compromise between Syria and the Zionists has failed. In his tour, Clinton visited Egypt, Jordan, Syria, occupied Palestine, Kuwait, and Saudi Arabia. On the eve of his visit, Western media reported that the objective behind his visit was to attend the ceremony for the signing of the Jordanian-Israeli peace accord. But it was very clear to many political observers and analysts of Middle East affairs that the major objective behind Clinton's visit was to pressure the Syrians to surrender to the regime occupying Jerusalem. But fearing that Clinton's mission in Syria would fail and, in a bid to avert a political scandal on an international level, western media attempted to hide the main objective of the visit.

Incoming reports now say that Clinton returned empty-handed from Damascus and that he was unable to solve any of the crises in Syria's relations with the Zionists. The Syrians still insist on Israel's withdrawal from the Golan and south Lebanon and on the implementation of UN resolutions on liberating the territories occupied in the six-day war.

Much more important than the failure of Clinton's efforts in Syria is a correct assessment of the nature of the Middle East crisis. The "crisis" emerging in relations between the regional peoples and the usurper Israel does not stem from the type of relations between regional governments and the Zionists. These "relations" have not only been "crisis-creating," but have been efforts toward complete and unconditional compromise and peace. The truth is that the Middle East crisis is not the outcome of relations between governments and the usurper Israel, but a crisis that stems from the marked differences and contrasts that exist in relations between the regional peoples and the Zionists. The Zionists wrongly think that by achieving a compromise with governments, the ground will be paved for controlling the anti-Zionist sentiments of nations.

What bothers the Zionist regime is not whether a government puts on airs. In their calculations, the Zionists are facing the resistant and deterrent forces in the region; that is, the pious and combatant Muslims. The Zionists are afraid of this strength, the Palestinian form of which is made up of the Hamas and intifadah warriors. This strength potentially exists in all the Islamic countries and it is this strength that will ultimately determine the fate of the region. Those who have omitted the popular element from their Middle East calculations or have not understood the true essence and nature of the crisis are only fooling themselves.

Intifadah To Have 'Last Say' in 'Palestine'

NC0411134994 Tehran JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI in Persian 26 Oct 94 pp 1, 15

[Editorial: "In Palestine the Intifadah Has the 'Last Say'"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The occupied Palestinian territories are living a breathtaking struggle against the Zionist occupiers. The blood is boiling in the veins of the Palestinian people, who are trying—by cutting off their hopes from the inauspicious Arab courts—to pave the way for their struggle and their victory with their own hands and to remove any obstacles in their way.

In Jordan, too, popular protest against the compromise agreement with Israel is culminating. The Jordanian speaker's opposition to the disgraceful compromise with Israel shows that the Jordanian court is also facing serious and extensive opposition from within and that even the dismissal of the speaker has not mitigated this crisis. While the king of Jordan said "I feel as if they have handed me the world," this very statement shows how small and despicable his world is and how he has, by belittling himself in front of Israel, agreed to safeguard this despicable world of his, which is nothing but his wretched rule.

Lebanese Muslims declared a period of public mourning in a show of protest and opposition against the Jordanian king's submission to Israel and in support of the Palestinian dream, which the Arab courts have ceased to support.

It is under such conditions that U.S. President Bill Clinton has set off for the area amid extremely tight security measures. He is to visit occupied Palestine today and then to go to Jordan, Syria, Egypt, and Kuwait. Clinton's visit to the area begins in Israel and the fact that he is holding official talks and meetings with Zionist officials in Jerusalem is extremely meaningful. In this way America has explicitly shown its Arab friends that it prefers the Zionist occupiers to all the Arabs put together and that it is trying to tip the scales in favor of Israel in regional issues.

This policy of Washington's is not new. But the American officials have tried to imply something of an impartial stance with their acts. Today it seems that Washington has no need to hide its feelings. Thus the American President will officially visit Jerusalem to further stabilize Israel's position and to emphasize that this city has been chosen as the Israeli capital.

If it is asked why Israel and America are displaying such impudence in their approach to the Arabs, the answer to this should be sought in the despicable nature of the reactionary Arabs and in the weakness of the inauspicious Arab courts. During his one-week visit to the Middle East, Clinton will try to bring the Syrian-Israeli talks out of their impasse and to further accelerate the joint Israeli-American efforts to further exploit the weakness of the Arab courts. But the issue is that today in the Arab world, especially in occupied Palestine, a new force has emerged that has no links with the Arab courts, a force that can use all its strength to make the Israeli occupiers kneel.

The persistent and deadly blows inflicted by Hamas and the intifadah on the Zionist occupiers are such that Israel cannot deny or underestimate them. Even 'Arafat's police have failed to render many services to Israel or to put the uneasy hearts of the Zionists at rest.

Israel clearly expected that immediately after the agreement with 'Arafat, a type of inaction would settle in all the occupied territories and the Muslim revolutionaries would give up their struggle against the occupiers. But the Gaza-Jericho Accord worked like a detonator in a powder keg and sparked a fire. Perhaps if 'Arafat had foreseen such a disgraceful fate, he would not have agreed to sign an agreement with the Zionist enemy and to sell off the occupied territories. But now he finds himself on a path with no return, because he has burned all the bridges behind him.

Thus 'Arafat does not play even the smallest role in Palestinian equations and has been demoted to a mere Israeli hireling. Even the enemy does not count on him, knowing that he and his hirelings are incapable of crushing the Islamic activists.

Under such conditions, which side has the last say? Clinton's expression of despair and concern in foreseeing the outcome of his visit to the Middle East shows that there is no one in Washington either who believes that Israel and America have the last say. It shows that Washington knows that today the grave point of the political-military struggle against the Zionist occupiers is inside the occupied territories; that this strongest type of struggle will continue until a clear and final victory; that the protraction of the struggles by the intifadah and Hamas prove that this struggle is on its natural course; that, in occupied Palestine, gradually all the Palestinians will incline toward the intifadah and will seek their salvation in a breathtaking and violent struggle leading to the final annihilation of Israel; and that, naturally, in Palestine, it is the intifadah, that is, the manifestation of the Palestinian people's resistance, that has the last say.

Pakistan

Mohammad Abbas Khattak Assumes Air Force Command

BK0811113794 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in English 1100 GMT 8 Nov 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The new PAF [Pakistan Air Force] chief, Air Chief Marshal Mohammad Abbas

Khattak, assumed command of the Air Force at a ceremony held at the PAF base, Chaklala, this morning. He took over the command from Air Chief Marshal Farooq Feroze Khan, the chairman-designate of Joint Chiefs of the Staff Committee.

President Farooq Ahmad Khan Leghari was the chief guest on the occasion. The ceremony was also attended by the chairman of Senate, Mr. Wasim Sajjad; the defense minister, Mr. Aftab Shaban Mirani; Chairman of Joint Chiefs of Staff Committee General Shamim Alam Khan; and the chiefs of the Army and the Navy. Later, 16 PAF combat aircraft comprising F-16's, Mirages, F-7P's, and A-5's overflew the venue of the ceremony at a low level to present salute to the outgoing chief of the air staff.

Editorial Discusses 'Showdown' in Malakand

BK0711142094 Peshawar THE FRONTIER POST in English 7 Nov 94 p 10

[Editorial: "The Showdown in Malakand"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Finally the government took a needed bold step in launching an operation clean-up through paramilitary troops in a bid to uproot the armed activists of TNSM (Tehrik-i-Nifaz-i-Shariat-i-Mohammadi), three days after they seized the airport, police stations, and government buildings to substantiate their demand for the enforcement of Shariat laws in the Malakand division. The insurgency, that involved, besides many other atrocities, kidnaps and murder of some government figures, took off the very day when the NWFP [Northwest Frontier Province] Chief Minister Aftab Sherpao was announcing the demanded Shariat package in a public meeting, part of a campaign for the oncoming by-elections. The timing of the incident is significant in its being indicative of the atmosphere of suspicion and distrust prevailing in the area and the inability of the government to command public confidence in its policies and decisions. As it appears presently, TNSM is an extremist religious group grown strong enough to throw to dogs all laws of the country and defy all rules of morality, humanity, and rationality. Audacious enough to demand the adoption of the proposed Shariat bill by the National Assembly and the Senate, while at the same time denouncing it as a bait dangled by the PPP [Pakistan People's Party] government to win by elections. TNSM resorted to violence and crime worthy of strongest condemnation. The operation cleanup launched to bring the situation under control has claimed lives, injured people, and disrupted social life.

The regrettable dimension of the issue is that the developments in the direction of this unfortunate event, evident through visible unrest and forebodings, have been building up over time and criminally ignored by those in authority whose job it was to take cognizance of the situation and act with foresight to forestall trouble. The demand of the enforcement of Sharia and the vehemence and vociferation that could go with it might not have been unexpected in a social system where general thinking is dominated by tradition, custom and religion, and where low literacy rates warrant virtual absence of liberal ideas. In such places, it is conveniently possible for an ambitious religious group to exploit public sentiments. At a critical time when FATA [Federally Administered Tribal Areas] regulations had just been ruled out and there has been vacuum in the administrative and judicial system, a delicate handling by the government was called for before bringing out the intended democratic and judicial changes. Replacing the old-system accepted over ages needed political acumen that has been found lacking in the governmental actions as witnessed during recent events. The government's lack of understanding of the attachment of the common man with the customs rooted in religion and convention as well as that of the influentials for the advantages offered by an authoritarian and hierarchical setup has apparently created a crisis of confidence, taken advantage of by the extremist group TNSM. The mayhem could have been avoided by doing some groundwork with the objective of providing reassurance and reaching out systematically to those concerned. Furthermore, the use of heavy weapons during the present crackdown over the activists has been an eye-opener and gives an idea that the insurgents could not have been able to take such a bold step as to try to establish a state within a state, had the government kept a vigil over the possession of arms in the areas. The events have also brought to light the spinelessness of the NWFP government that, while unable to gauge the gravity of the situation when there was time to forestall, resorted weakly to the expediency of bending under the pressure of crime and violence and tried to suit its system of governance to the wishes of a particular religious group dominant in the area—an acquiescence that is bound to open floodgates of trouble for federal administration and also encourage other such equally militant groups and sects in the way of putting forth of their similar demands.

Editorial on Bhutto's 'Success' in France

BK0811052994 Islamabad THE PAKISTAN TIMES in English 7 Nov 94 p 6

[Editorial: "A Successful Visit"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The wide-ranging talks held between Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto and President Francois Mitterand during the former's three-day visit to France focused on the Kashmir dispute, the procurement of a 900-MW [Megawatt] nuclear power plant and closer cooperation between the two countries in the economic, commercial and defence sector. Briefing newsmen on the visit, Foreign Secretary Najmuddin Sheikh said the Benazir-Mitterand talks covered a wide range of subjects including the regional situation. President Mitterand had expressed his concern over the violations of human rights "and advocated a dialogue between India and Pakistan to resolve the problem." In this context, Mr. Mitterand said "France will be communicating with India." On this occasion, Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto provided a detailed briefing on the Kashmir dispute, the continued Indian repression on the Kashmiri people and the need for the international community to bring pressure to bear on New Delhi to stop the repression. President Mitterand empahsised France's concern over violation of human rights in Kashmir and observed that Paris will mount efforts to resolve the problem between Pakistan and India.

New Delhi has been holding on to Kashmir through brute force in open defiance of UN resolutions and has used every possible trick to sidetrack the core issue to perpetuate its tyranical hold over the Valley. The human rights situation in Kashmir has lately plummeted to an all time low and the specific mention of the Kashmir dispute in UN Secretary-General Butrus Butrus-Ghali's report testifies to its worldwide recognition. Terming the dispute as "one of the oldest unresolved conflicts still on the United Nations agenda", the UN chief renewed his offer to help the parties to resolve the festering dispute—an offer which New Delhi has consistently declined to accept. It is indeed a measure of the success of Pakistan's current diplomatic offensive and Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto's indefatigable efforts that there is today a world wide recognition of the Kashmir problem. This has put New Delhi on the defensive and forced it to take shelter behind the fig-leaf of "bilateralism" to buy time. It will be recalled that New Delhi has always used the trump card of "bilateralism" to wriggle out of the tight corner it often finds itself in over the Kashmir dispute. For instance, it used this trick again in the secretary-level talks last January to avoid censure at the Geneva human rights moot. But such subterfuge has only eroded its already diminishing credibility in the comity of nations. Surprisingly, it does not appear to be much bothered about international opinion, either. That is why it has chosen to intensify repression in the Valley even while the UN General Assembly's session is in progress. Viewed in this context, the Prime Minister's Paris visit and the positive response she received from President Mitterand to Pakistan's request for mediation in the dispute can be termed a major diplomatic success.

Editorial: Economy Needs Political Stability

BK0811061794 Islamabad THE MUSLIM in English 7 Nov 94 p 6

[Editorial: "An Economic Heaven Over a Political Vacuum?"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] For poor Pakistan the investment figures are all too mind-boggling, if not astronomical. In a country where the rupee [Rs] has crashed from 3.33 to a dollar to Rs 30.65, and the slide continues due to sustained inflation, we are not talking of millions of dollars any more but of many many billions, all of them coming from abroad to earn the large profits assured by the Pakistan Government. Investment in oil and gas and power will cross 32 billion dollars by the year 2000, says Minister for Petroleum and Natural Resources, Anwar Saifullah. That is an average of 5.4 billion dollars for the next six years. Power generation with foreign investment and the cost of bringing gas from Qatar, Turkmenistan and Iran may cost 40 to 50 billion dollars. A minimum of Rs 102 billion would be needed to fund the power generation programme alone, during the eighth five-year plan ending 1998, syas Mr Salman Faruqi, Secretary Ministry of Power and Water.

We are no longer talking of the share of foreign investment and local capital, instead the officials are talking of private and public sector investment. And both are to be dominated by foreign investment with the local capital being small. We are too excited about the Memoranda of Understanding being signed day in day out without acknowledging that an MoU does not mean a binding commitment and much less an investment. If we seek to many commitments to invest from far too many investors most of them may slip out of our hands quick in the melee in their own self-interest.

The basic question is: does Pakistan have the foreign exchange needed to import oil worth two billion dollars more to feed the power generation plant and more funds to pay for imported gas? Do we have the money to pay for the profits of foreign investors when the average profit committed to all of them is 24 percent, and the smarter ones, like Gordon Wu, can make far more using his own coal and his own coal ships to bring it from Australia? Is our economy going to expand so fast as a result of enough power being available, though at a high cost and can our exports which earn a meagre seven billion dollars now expand fast enough to meet the soaring oil import bill and remit the high profit of the energy investors?

Apart from such financial issues there are several major political questions: how do we expect foreign investors to commit 70 or 80 billion dollars on the basis of the assurances given by the government of the day or binding commitments entered into, when there is so much political uncertainty in the country and the Prime Minister of today is denounced as a traitor tomorrow and many of his/her commitments repudiated and new policies hastily devised? If there is no bipartisan economy at the level of the top two parties in a country with too many political parties and Islam is often used by vested interests as a road-block to progress, how can the foreigners commit themselves to make such large investments? Besides, there is the steadily worsening law and order which is no longer confined to murderous Karachi or Sindh, but has reached the Northern Regions as well. Making things worse are the corrupt and slovenly bureaucracy and the high-handed police and wooden-headed tax departments.

If the Government and the Opposition cannot agree on even releasing the MNAs [Members of National Assembly] detained to prevent the payyah [wheel strike] jam a forthnight ago, how can they cooperate in any other sphere and how will the foreign investors feel secure with their vast investments? It is time we do the first things first and put the country on its rails instead of merely gloating over indications of vast foreign investment and the Prime Minister making one foreign trip after another and rest of the government holding unending investment conferences at home or abroad to say the same things which they have been saying all the time, like untiring song birds.

Sri Lanka

Seven 'Rebels' Killed in LTTE 'Suicide Strike'

BK0811061894 Hong Kong AFP in English 0608 GMT 8 Nov 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] COLOMBO, Nov 8 (AFP)—Tamil rebels Tuesday [8 November] attempted a suicide strike on a Sri Lankan navy landing craft, wounding four security personnel and losing at least seven of their own men on the eve of presidential polls, officials said.

Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) rebels mounted the attack in several boats off the northern Vettilaikerni coast, but troops from a nearby army camp repulsed the pre-dawn strike, destroying three LTTE boats, officials said.

"Three soldiers and one of our men were injured. At least seven Tigers were killed. But their casualties may be high because three of their boats were destroyed by artillery fire," a naval official said.

He said that one of the boats was destroyed when it tried to ram the navy landing craft just off the Vettilaikerni coast where the army has a major base established during an anti-LTTE operation three years ago.

"It was clearly a suicide mission to destroy the landing craft. But this time we were ready. There was heavy firing from both sides for about three hours but finally the Tigers withdrew," said an army spokesman.

The LTTE attack came on the eve of presidential elections, prompting fears that the rebels may try to stage further attacks in northern areas on polling day. There will be no balloting in areas under rebel control.

The opposition has already blamed the LTTE for a massive bomb explosion that killed opposition presidential candidate Gamini Dissanayake and 56 others during an election rally here on October 24.

The LTTE is fighting for a separate state in the northeast for Sri Lanka's minority Tamils concentrated in the region. Thousands have died in the LTTE-led independence campaign.

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